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Education commissioner gets new 4-year contract. PAGE 2
Another hearing ordered to determine operators' ability to pay bond requirement. PAGE 3

OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Do you think DPS officers escorting AG Edward T. Buckingham and his wife to the airport was proper?

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INSIDE

NATION

Jared Lee Loughner agreed Tuesday to spend the rest of his life in prison, accepting that he went on a deadly shooting rampage at an Arizona political gathering and avoiding the prospect of a trial that might have brought him the death penalty.

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ASIA

Widespread flooding that killed at least 11 people, battered a million others and paralyzed the Philippine capital began to ease Wednesday as cleanup and rescue efforts focused on a large number of distressed residents, some still marooned on their roofs.

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SENATE EAGI TO ASK DPS, CPA CHIEFS:

'Is there authorization, justification on use of resources to escort AG?'

» House JGO chair cautions against jeopardizing OPA probe

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations chair Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian) said yesterday they will be asking acting Department of Public Safety commissioner Aniceto Ogumoro and Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero to "justify" the need for armed DPS and CPA officers to escort Attorney General Edward Buckingham and his wife to the airport on Saturday amid growing concerns about abuse of power, misuse of government resources, and obstruction of justice.

Cruz

Cruz said he will also be asking whether the acting DPS commissioner and CPA executive director authorized or had prior knowledge of the use of their uniformed men and service vehicles to escort the Buckinghams and carry their luggage.

"The Senate EAGI Committee would like to assure the public that we will get to the bottom of this," Cruz told *Saipan Tribune.*

See AG on Page 4

Senate OKs pension obligation bond initiative for voters' ratification

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

House minority leader Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), center, shakes hands with Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), right, after the Senate passed by a vote of 8-0 Deleon Guerrero's pension obligation bond initiative yesterday, the last day for all legislative initiatives to be filed with the Commonwealth Election Commission for placement on the Nov. 6 ballot. Also in photo are Sen. Luis Crisostimo (Ind-Saipan), seated, and Senate clerk Doris Bermudes.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Voters will once again vote on a pension obligation bond measure some three months from now, following the Senate's passage yesterday of House Legislative Initiative 17-5 that, if ratified, could help the government pay a portion of its estimated $325 million debt to the cash-strapped NMI Retirement Fund.

SLI 17-5 passed the Senate by a vote of 8-0 with Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) as the only one absent. Torres has been off-island since last week.

Within hours, the Legislature transmitted the initiative to the Commonwealth

See SENATE on Page 4

Saipan's regular gas now $4.909 a gallon

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A price display at a Mobil service station in Garapan yesterday shows the latest gas prices following Tuesday night's 15-cents-a-gallon increase.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Saipan motorists got another surprise at the pump when Mobil Oil Mariana Islands increased its gas prices by 15 cents a gallon on Tuesday night, bringing to 40 cents the total increases since July 17.

The three price increases came after a series of rollbacks totaling 60 to 65 cents since May 8.

Regular unleaded gasoline is now $4.909 a gallon at Mobil service stations on Saipan, up from $4.759 a gallon.

Super unleaded gasoline now costs $5.229 a gallon.

Diesel is now $5.219 a gallon.

As of early last night, Shell Marianas service stations had yet to change prices. Mobil and Shell historically mirror each other's price changes.

See GAS on Page 4

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Local

Education commissioner gets new 4-year contract

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

After more than two hours of closed-door deliberation yesterday, the State Board of Education unanimously approved a new four-year employment contract for Dr. Rita A. Sablan to continue as the Public School System's chief executive officer.

Sablan's new contract will expire in August 2016 with the condition that she would be evaluated on the first year using the board's newly established evaluation tool for the commissioner of education post.

Board chair Marylou S. Ada said the decision was reached after determining that Sablan met with flying colors all the expectations set by the board in her first contract.

» Board says Sablan met expectations with flying colors

She disclosed that the commissioner will continue receiving an annual wage of $80,000 subject to any adjustment that the board may take during the contract period. Sablan was hired in 2008 and upon appointment each board member laid out their expectations for the COE to meet.

In the aspect of students' achievement alone, the chairwoman cited the overwhelming success of PSS based on both SAT-10 and SBA tests results the last four years.

Ada also noted the launching of several school programs and initiatives, effective and advanced curriculums, the aggressive efforts in securing federal awards, and the establishment of greater collaboration and partnership with parents and students through Sablan's youth advisory panel and the parents and teachers advisory councils.

Sablan

Also notable among Sablan's achievements as commissioner is the PSS' compliance with the federal mandate to have all its classrooms equipped with highly qualified and effective teachers. Since 2011, PSS has been operating with all teachers and administrators highly qualified pursuant to the requirements set by the board.

In the new contract, the board assigned new expectations for the education commissioner to meet within the contract period. All these, according to Ada, are aimed to further improve the educational system on the island.

The education commissioner's contract renewal was delayed for some weeks pending the board's adoption of the evaluation tool. It is the stand of the board that like the system's staff and teachers, the education commissioner also has to go through an evaluation process upon renewal of contract.

Sablan, in a separate interview after yesterday's meeting, admitted that she was feeling "very positive" as soon as she entered and faced the board in the closed-door meeting. This, she said, was because she believes that she performed to the best of her abilities and had satisfied the board's expectations.

Sablan promised to continue PSS' growth and success, especially in terms of students' achievements.

Ready for all the possible queries of the board, *Saipan Tribune* learned that Sablan provided members a detailed report about her performance in line with the expectations set by the board.

According to Sablan, what the school district has achieved in past four years reflect how it continues to implement and pursue its five-point agenda that sets PSS' direction for growth—the Strategic Priorities Plus One.

This consists of high student performance, highly qualified and effective personnel, effective and efficient operation,; safe and orderly school campus, and the parental engagement and community partnership.

All-time high

Based on PSS data presented to the board yesterday, student performances in SAT-10 continue to increase in the past six school years.

It was, however, in the last four years that the result had a remarkable up-tick. The SAT-10 result for Grade 3 climbed in 2008 at 40 percentile recovering from a slight decrease in 2007. By 2012, Grade 3 level was performing well by attaining an overall 32 percentile rank, but only reflecting a one-point drop from 2011's 33 percentile. For Grade 5, it held a steady growth for three consecutive years from 2007 to 2009 at 37 percentile. By 2011, the level was all time high at 43 percentile and just slightly reduced at 42 percentile. These grade levels, and others, have all shown consistent growth each year, based on the comprehensive report presented to the board yesterday. SAT-10 is considered a system-wide norm reference test conducted for Grades 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 11.

For SBA, or the standard based assessment, data shows increases in the percentage of benchmarks proficient or above in the last three years from 2009 to 2012.

In reading, Grade 3 showed a steady increase at 40 percent and rose by 5 percent, to register a 45-percent proficiency. Grade 4's benchmark proficiency was already high at 47 percent in 2009 to 53 percent at present.

In Math, most grades tested remained constant and or have increased from 2010 to 2011.

HQT, graduation rate

According to Sablan, all teaching personnel of PSS have passed both Praxis tests and have earned degrees and certification requirements. At present, there are 29 highly qualified administrators; 460 highly qualified teachers; and 18 highly qualified counselors.

Graduation rates also showed steady progress from 96 percent in 2009; 97 percent in 2010; 93 percent in 2011; and 97 percent in 2012.

The number of high school graduates who pursue college also increased: 49 percent in 2009; 55 percent in 2010; 71 percent in 2011; and 56 percent in 2012.

44 school infrastructure developed

The commissioner also reported to the board yesterday that PSS has developed a total of 44 infrastructure and improvement projects for schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota islands. It also renovated and modernized campuses using the state fiscal stabilization fund awarded in 2009.

Sablan also cited the launching of green energy projects and the introduction of more technology innovations in schools and offices, including the One Laptop Per Child policy. Anti-bullying campaigns have also been intensified and the professional development and trainings for employees and staff expanded to ensure effective and efficient operations of schools.

It was also during Sablan's leadership that a five-year financial master plan was initiated for PSS.

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AS MARINE SPORTS OPERATORS POST ONLY $1,861 CASH BOND

Another hearing ordered to determine operators' ability to pay bond requirement

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The five marine sports operators who are suing the Department of Public Lands have posted $1,861.05 cash bond or 3 percent of the $62,034 that the Superior Court required them to pay in order for them to regain Managaha access while their lawsuit is pending in court.

The marine sports operators said the $1,861.05 that they posted in court on Tuesday represents either nominal damages for a possibly wrongfully enjoined DPL or representative of the possible damages alleged by DPL in its opposition to the operators' motion to modify the bond requirement.

As this developed, Superior Court associate judge Joseph N. Camacho yesterday issued an order setting a hearing on Aug. 22 at 9:30am to determine the marine sports operators' ability to pay the $62,034 bond requirement.

The plaintiffs in this case are Island Marine Sports Inc., Aquatic Marine Co. Inc., Automarine Inc., Seahorse Inc., and BSEA Inc. Each operator deposited in court $372.21 in cash or for a total of $1,861.02.

Attorney F. Matthew Smith, counsel for the operators, said the plaintiffs deposited the money in a good faith attempt to propose an alternative bond calculations and to deposit a bond that they are capable of meeting.

Smith said the bond that the plaintiffs posted shall be void and all posted sums returned to them should they succeed on the merits of their Commonwealth Administrative Procedure Act claim or should the court modify the bond requirement or allow the preliminary injunction to take effect without this bond.

Smith said the operators posted the bond due to the ongoing harm being suffered by them each day that the preliminary injunction is unable to take effect.

Smith said the operators continue to seek modification of the bond requirement and hope the court might recognize this good faith effort on the part of plaintiffs to comply with the bond requirement.

The lawyer said DPL argued at the modification hearing that DPL's possible damages resulting from the preliminary injunction could be 3 percent of Tasi Tours' possible lost revenue.

He said the court noted that Tasi Tours estimated a possible lost revenue of $62,034 should DPL be wrongfully enjoined.

In his order issued yesterday, Camacho said while he recognizes the $1,861 bond as a good faith effort to comply with the bond requirement, the court still does not have evidence regarding petitioners' ability to pay.

Camacho said the petitioners have represented that they are unable to post the bond amount in connection with a preliminary injunction, although no evidence was presented regarding their ability to pay.

Camacho said in order for him to make a decision on a full record he hereby stays decision on the petitioners' motion to modify the bond requirement.

The judge ordered the parties in the case to submit briefing supported by affidavits regarding petitioners' ability to pay a bond/financial hardship, and proposal(s) for meeting a bond requirement such as a deposit of property in lieu of the bond and/or a payment schedule.

Camacho

BSEA Inc., through its president Bill Owens, stated that Camacho's July 19 temporary injunction may only begin when a bond is paid—something they have been unable to secure on Saipan

In order to try all angles, Owens said their search for an insurance company that offers this type of fiduciary bond for the six-week term was unsuccessful.

Owens said that, at a hearing, the topic of DPL's potential damages pointed to its agreement with Tasi Tours that calls for a payment to DPL equal to 3 percent of Tasi Tours' gross receipts.

Tasi Tours, the businessman said, speculated that $62,034 in damages may occur over the term of the temporary injunction so they have submitted the 3 percent that DPL claims they stand to lose.

Owens said they have also reached out to the parties involved in this case as well as the Marianas Visitors Authority as they feel a solution is attainable amongst professionals in the industry, for the betterment of the island.

"Every moment that passes, seven days per week, we are unable to do our part for tourism at the peak of our year—something we have done for decades," Owens said.

He said they have tried to come up with something in good faith to get back out there and do their part.

"We are well into the busy season that floats our whole year—we're just trying solutions at this point. Tourism needs us and our employees need tourism," he said.

In his July 19, 2012 order, Camacho granted the operators' request to maintain the status quo on Managaha access until their lawsuit against DPL is decided on its merits.

Camacho, however, ordered the operators to post the $62,034 bond. He said the preliminary injunction shall take effect once the full bond is remitted to the court.

The operators then moved the court to modify the bond requirement either by removing the bond altogether or to only require a nominal bond.

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BUCKINGHAM TO LEGISLATURE:

Govt has $27M in unpaid judgments needing appropriations

BUDGET TALKS HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), left, shakes hands with Public School System acting director of finance George Palican, right, while Education commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan and PSS federal programs officer Tim Thornburg look on after a Senate meeting with PSS and Board of Education officials on PSS' proposed fiscal year 2013 budget Wednesday afternoon. Education officials asked for a $30-million budget to meet the maintenance-of-efforts requirements but the Senate is still weighing the request as it works on the $114-million budget package less than two months before the start of FY 2013.

Two days before leaving Saipan, Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham wrote an Aug. 2 letter to the Legislature informing them that the government has more than $27 million in unpaid judgments needing appropriations. Most of them are related to land claims.

Buckingham cited 1 CMC 7207 which states in part, "Any final judgment of a court shall be paid only pursuant to an item of appropriations for settlement and awards."

The current budget bill for fiscal year 2013 has "zero" for payments of settlements and awards.

"This letter is meant to inform the Senate and the House of Representatives of currently outstanding and unpaid judgments and settlements awaiting appropriation by the Legislature," Buckingham told Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) in a five-page letter.

Manglona said yesterday the Senate will be looking into the matter as it works on the FY 2013 budget bill. The government has $114 million in projected resources available for government appropriations for FY 2013 which begins on Oct. 1.

There are 15 claimants or group of claimants still owed over $27 million by the government.

The biggest amount is $11.43 million, which the CNMI government needs to pay to the heirs of Manaabao in the CNMI v. Lot 353 New-G et al., Superior Court Civil No. 97-0266. The date of judgment was June 10, 2011.

Also on the list is over $5.9 million that the CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources needs to pay Marine Revitalization Corp. and Anthony Pellegrino. The date of judgment was May 10, 2005.

The other government agencies responsible for the payments were the Department of Public Lands, Commonwealth Health Center, and the Department of Public Works. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

GAS

From Page 1

Rose Lisua, a Northern Marianas College student, was surprised to learn of another price increase. She said she has to further cut other areas of expenses to make up for the 15-cent a gallon increase in gas, especially because she's using a six-cylinder vehicle.

"No more cruising around to save gas," said the Chalan Laulau resident as she was buying gas at Mobil's service station in Garapan yesterday afternoon. She said she spends some $20 for gas, and that lasts for only two days.

Eric Borja, a former inspector for the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission, was appalled at the series of increases in gas prices and asked the Legislature to "do something about it."

"That 15 cents should have been for food for the family but instead it goes to buying gas. We the people can't do anything about the gas prices but maybe the lawmakers can," said the 36-year-old father of three as he was buying gas at a Mobil station yesterday.

The CNMI, especially Rota, has the dubious distinction of having the highest gas prices on American soil.

Mobil earlier said that prices of gasoline are determined by a number of factors, including changes in the world market wholesale prices of gasoline, regional gasoline supply and demand balance, transportation costs, insurance, local distribution, marketing costs, government regulations, taxes, competitive market forces, and investments in retail stations and distribution terminals.

AG

From Page 1

He said "based on information so far available," it "seemed" that the presence of armed officers including DPS deputy commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro, the governor's personal security/driver Police Capt. Jermaine W. Nekaifes, and CPA Ports Police Chief Jordan Kosam at the airport was to prevent the AG from being served penal summons in connection with criminal charges filed against him.

"There was tight security, as we saw on the video [by KSPN2]," Cruz said.

He said a reported assault on a KSPN 2 reporter should also be investigated.

The EAGI Committee chairman is currently preparing such letter to be sent to the heads of DPS and CPA.

'Not surprising'

As of last night, the administration has yet to comment on Senate President Paul Manglona's (Ind-Rota) request to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to suspend Buckingham without pay for the duration of the criminal case.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) said last night he's "not surprised that the governor has kept mum on the issue."

"The governor knows everything about the incident. I believe that OPA [Office of the Public Auditor] will be investigating escorting and obstruction in the delivery of the penal summons. I won't be surprised if federal authorities get in on the picture as some federally funded vehicles were used on this heinous operation," Dela Cruz said.

He also said, "I hope that now people of the CNMI will vote for an elected AG which I introduced and will be on ballot this coming November election. To begin the process of good governance, we must elect the attorney general."

The Senate president also asked the governor to investigate the use of public resources to escort the Buckinghams.

Manglona also asked the Senate EAGI Committee to conduct an investigation independent of the one he asked the governor.

'Cautious'

House Judiciary and Governmental Operations chair Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), meanwhile, said last night that while he supports looking into the alleged misuse of government resources, he said the Legislature should be "cautious" so as not to "jeopardize" the Office of the Public Auditor's ongoing investigation.

Demapan, in a phone interview, said if the Senate EAGI Committee is also looking into the matter, he suggests a "joint" effort between the two committees.

"I suggest the Senate EAGI and House JGO work together on this," he added.

JGO Committee members Rep. Joe Palacios (R-Saipan) and Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan) separately said they will be the chairman to take the lead on the matter, specifically the alleged use of public resources like DPS and CPA personnel, time, and vehicles to help the AG evade the serving of a penal summons to appear in court related to criminal charges.

"I will ask the chair of JGO to have the committee look into this serious matter, especially the actions the AG took to leave the CNMI in light of a properly served summons," Yumul said.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman issued on Monday a bench warrant for Buckingham's arrest for not appearing in court despite penal summons served on him by an FBI special agent.

Wiseman imposed a $50,000 cash bail for Buckingham. He determined that the AG flagrantly disregarded the court's lawful penal summons.

The criminal charges against Buckingham included alleged hosting of a delegate candidate party at the governor's house in August 2010 and approving a $400,000 sole-source contract award to a Cabinet member within days of resigning from government.

OPA filed amended information adding two more charges against Buckingham. The new charges—obstructing justice: interference with service of process, and misconduct in public office—were related to Buckingham's alleged use of police officers to escort him at the airport to avoid being served with penal summons between Friday and Saturday.

SENATE

From Page 1

Election Commission.

The Senate passed the measure on the last day of filing all legislative initiatives with the Election Commission, to be placed on the Nov. 6 ballot.

The pension obligation initiative is the third initiative that will be placed on the Nov. 6 ballot—the other two are the elected attorney general initiative, and one that changes the Northern Marianas College mission statement.

House minority leader Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), author of SLI 17-5, said he's glad that the initiative "passed the first hurdle" and more still needs to be done "to correct the mistakes of the past for the future."

Deleon Guerrero was referring to the government's decision years back to suspend remitting employer contribution to the Retirement Fund, until the debt grew to some $325 million.

Most senators had reservations about floating a bond to help pay off the government's debt but in the end, they supported the initiative, saying it is one of the major options to prolong the Fund's lifespan beyond two years.

Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) repeatedly said it's "very shameful" that the government will now have to ask the public to help pay its debt to the Retirement Fund when the government didn't consult the public when it suspended remittance to the pension agency.

"It's very shameful but the government needs to pay its obligation to help the retirees," Ayuyu said.

Deleon Guerrero, in answering questions from senators during yesterday's session, said if voters ratify SLI 17-5, it will only authorize—not force—the CNMI to float a bond "specifically" to help pay the government's debt to the cash-strapped NMI Retirement Fund.

That debt is now some $325 million in unpaid employer contribution to the Fund plus interest.

Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) said this proposed constitutional amendment is just an "alternative" to help the government's debt to the pension fund.

"Even if we don't have this, we still have to pay the obligation to the Retirement Fund. This is just one way to hopefully ease the burden on future retirees

Deleon Guerrero, in addressing senators, said even if voters ratify the initiative, the government still needs to look at how much it can borrow, its credit rating, its repayment ability, and the interest rate, among other things.

"We can't float the entire $300 million bond… But at least we can create a mechanism to float a bond. Hopefully, if the economy rebounds, we could see how much we can float and repay. It may not even be $100 million, if only to extend the lifespan of the Fund for a year or two," he said.

The House minority leader said the government is liable if the Fund collapses, unless something is done.

He said some $64 million is paid annually by the Fund to pensioners.

Deleon Guerrero said the court could order the government to pay that amount every year for retirees' pension, and that will be some 60 percent of the government's annual budget.

He said $64 million to be appropriated to the Retirement Fund, as may be ordered by the court, will mean curtailing other essential public services such as health and public safety.

But he said if the pension obligation bond moves forward for an annual payment of $10 million, for example, that will still be better than $64 million a year.

"It takes more than one measure to address the problems," he said, adding that he applauds the Senate for taking a proactive approach in trying to help prevent the Fund from collapsing in two years.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) asked Deleon Guerrero about his opinion on why the previous initiative on the same matter failed.

Deleon Guerrero said previously, there were so-called retirees and "experts" lobbying against the initiative's passage, and there was not much public education, along with the retirees association back then not taking a strong stand in support of the POB initiative.

He said this time around, the Retirement Fund, the Commonwealth Retirees Association, the Legislature, and the administration are united in pushing for the pension obligation initiative.

"They are all helping the constituents understand this [initiative]," he said.

HLI 17-5 seeks to add a new Section 10 to Article 10 of the NMI Constitution to authorize the Commonwealth to issue pension obligations bonds and for other purposes.

In the 2010 elections, a similar initiative was ratified by only 4,200 of voters who participated in the election, while 5,611 voted against it. Registered voters who cast their votes that time totaled 11,436.

Camacho slaps maximum sentence against man for domestic violence

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

For Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho, the time of imposing a "slap on the wrist" sentence on a defendant convicted of domestic violence is over.

Camacho yesterday sentenced to the maximum jail sentence of one year Brandon Camacho Wanket who was convicted for pulling the hair of his common-law wife and resisting police's arrest.

"The Domestic Violence Criminal Act was passed in 2004. That was eight years ago. This court rises to the call of the Legislature to address domestic violence as a serious problem," the judge said.

Wanket was ordered to serve the jail sentence day to day, without the possibility of parole, early release, weekend release, or any other similar program.

The defendant was given credit for two days he already served in jail.

Camacho granted the defendant's request to start serving the jail term at the Department of Corrections on Aug. 17, 2012 at 8am.

After the case was assigned to him, Camacho quickly set the matter for a bench trial. At the July 17, 2012 trial, Camacho convicted Wanket on all counts—assault and battery, disturbing the peace, criminal mischief, interfering with a domestic violence report, and resisting arrest.

At yesterday's sentencing, assistant public defender Matt Meyer, counsel for Wanket, recommended a 30-day jail term. Meyer said the defendant has no criminal history and that it was only a single act of violence involved—pulling the hair one time.

Meyer said there was no evidence presented that the defendant struck, pushed or kicked a police officer.

The common-law wife asked the court to give Wanket another chance. She disclosed that they are planning to get married this September.

Assistant attorney general Margo Brown recommended a maximum sentence of one year in prison.

Before announcing the sentence, Camacho stated his findings. He said after a night of drinking with friends, Wanket came home to find his clothes in the yard in Upper Miha on June 22, 2011.

A heated argument followed between Wanket and his common-law wife of seven years. The victim has a serious health condition with her breathing that requires her house to be air-conditioned.

To retaliate against the victim, Wanket cut the cord of the air-conditioner.

Camacho said disabling the air-conditioner was designed to intimidate and hurt the victim emotionally and physically.

"This court takes the view that cutting the A/C cord is similar to cutting the very air the victim is breathing and was intended to cause her harm," Camacho said.

Camacho said the victim took Wanket's cell phone to call the police.

The victim managed to get one call out to 911 as Wanket was running and chasing after her. The defendant grabbed the victim's hair with such force that both of them fell to the ground.

Camacho said it took three responding police officers 15 minutes to subdue Wanket.

The judge said even after repeated requests from the officers to calm down and submit to their lawful authority, Wanket refused to comply.

Camacho said the officers had to use teargas and even then still had to wrestle the defendant to the ground in order to finally secure the handcuffs.

On the charge of interference with a domestic violence report, Camacho noted that somewhere out there in the community is a victim of domestic violence who wants to cry out for help.

"If you pick up a phone and call for help, this court will take the crime of domestic violence seriously," the judge stressed.

Camacho is known for rejecting lenient plea bargains and imposing full maximum jail sentences.

EMO: Heavy rainfall on Saipan, Tinian

The CNMI Emergency Management Office said heavy rainfall and thunderstorms will continue to develop over Saipan and Tinian and adjacent coastal waters.

It added that this current weather condition will cause locally heavy rainfall of 2 to 4 inches and occasional lightning and thus advised the public to seek shelter inside their homes or any building if they hear thunder or see lightning.

EMO also warned motorists to be alert for road flooding and near-zero visibility due to the torrential rain. Boaters can also expect reduced visibility to less than one mile and dangerous lightning with the strong rain showers.

EMO will continue to monitor this system and provide updates if it becomes available. ***(PR)***

Federal court revokes supervised release of probationer for using 'ice' anew

The federal court has revoked the supervised release of a woman in a counterfeiting of money case and ordered her to spend 12 months and one day in jail for, among other violations, using methamphetamine or "ice."

At a revocation hearing on Tuesday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona ordered that upon release from jail, defendant Kisha Lyn Masga King shall be placed on supervised release for 15 months.

Manglona ordered King to pay a $400 special assessment fee, participate in a substance abuse program, and refrain from the use of poker machines and entering poker or game establishments, among other conditions.

The U.S. Probation Office moved to revoke the probation of King for violating some terms and conditions.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe expressed concern regarding King's failure to appear at the family counseling session Monday night.

Backe requested for the defendant to undergo a drug test that same day.

The prosecutor noted that the last two positive tests were detected within the last 12 months. He alleged that King may have tampered with the samples provided to probation for drug testing.

Court-appointed counsel Matthew Smith stated that King failed to appear at her family counseling session because some family members were not able to attend.

Smith said King was prepared to admit to some violations.

King admitted that she failed to refrain from the unlawful use and/or possess a controlled substance. She also admitted she failed to refrain from the use of poker machines and entering a poker or game establishments.

Backe recommended that King be sentenced to more jail time instead of more time on supervised release.

Smith recommended a home detention sentence.

In June 2009, the federal court imposed a three-year probation sentence on King who, along with two men, was involved in the passing of counterfeit bills to some stores on Saipan.

In September 2009, the court revoked King's probation for committing violations, including using "ice."

The court ordered the defendant to spend nine months in prison. The court also ordered that she be placed on a 27-month probation after serving the jail term. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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PUBLIC NOTICE

E. LAND HEREBY CLARIFIES THE INFORMATION RELEASED IN THE RECENT NEWS ARTICLE ABOUT THE ACQUISITION OF PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB.

THIS IS TO CONFIRM THAT E. LAND HAS NOT ACQUIRED PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB. ITS FOCUS IS ON THE PLANNED RENOVATION OF PALMS RESORT SAIPAN.

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FlameTree Terrace Office Building, Lower Capitol Hill

ELECTION COMMISSION RECORDS:

78 candidates, 3 initiatives for Nov. 6 polls

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A total of 78 candidates have filed petitions seeking government positions in the upcoming mid-term elections, while a total of three legislative initiatives were received by the Commonwealth Election Commission upon the 6pm filing deadline yesterday.

For the U.S. non-voting delegate position, two have submitted petitions which include incumbent Independent Gregorio Kilili Sablan Sablan (Ind-MP) and the Republican Party's Ignacia Demapan.

For Senate seats, four individuals have submitted petitions for Saipan including Ana Teregeyo (Covevant), Illuminada Bermudes (Independent), Sen. Luis Crisostimo (Rep-Saipan), and Sen. Ray Yumul (Ind-Saipan).

For the Tinian Senate seat, the race will be between Francisco Borja (Independent) and Joaquin Borja (Republican). Vying for the Senate seat for Rota are Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and Victor Hocog (Republican).

There are 12 candidates for House precinct 1 seats: Martin Sablan (Covevant); Rep. Antonio Sablan (Ind-Saipan); Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan); Mariano Taitano (Independent); Roman Benavente (Independent); Rep. Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan); Speaker Eliceo Cabrera (Rep-Saipan); Jose Limes (Republican); Rep. Joseph Palacios (Rep-Saipan); Ramon Dela Cruz (Republican); Richard Seman (Republican); and Vicente Cabrera (Republican).

For House precinct 2, candidates are Eric Demapan (Independent); John Paul Sablan (Covenant); Rep. Rafael Demapan (Cov-Saipan); Daniel Aquino Jr. (Independent); Eric Atalig (Republican); and Liana Hofschneider (Republican).

Meanwhile, a total of 16 filed their candidacies for House precinct 3. These include Anthony Benavente (Independent); Brian Torres (Covenant); David Maratita (Republican); Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan); Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan); vice speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Rep-Saipan); Rep. Francisco Dela Cruz (Ind.-Saipan); Ignacio Cabrera (Independent); Jesus Castro (Republican); Jose Saures (Republican); Juan Reyes (Republican); Mariano Fajardo (Independent); Ralph Yumul (Independent); Rep. Ramon Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan); Raymond Lizama (Independent); and Roy Rios (Republican).

For House precinct 4, four individuals are seeking positions—Christopher Leon Guerrero (Covenant); Rep. George Camacho (Rep-Saipan); Rep. Sylvestre Iguel (Rep-Saipan); and Jesus Wabol Jr. (Republican).

For House precinct 5, the following are running for representative: Antonio Agulto (Republican); Rep. Fredrick Deleon Guerrero (Rep-Saipan); Jesse Torres (Democratic Party); Lorenzo Deleon Guerreo (Republican); Rep. Ramon Basa (Rep-Saipan); and Daniel Quitugua (Independent).

For the Tinian House seat, the race will be between Edwin Aldan (Republican) and Rep. Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian). For Rota, vying for House seat are Felix Santos (Independent) and Rep. Teresita Santos (Rep-Rota).

For Saipan's municipal council, three have submitted petitions: Bernardo Cruz, Ramon Camacho, and Antonia Tudela.

Meantime, there are five potential candidates for the Tinian municipal council posts: Estevan Cabrera, Eugenio Villagomez, Joseph Borja, Patrick Manglona, and Raynaldo Cing.

For Rota, municipal council aspirants include Garder Barcinas, George Hocog, Glenn Maratita, Prudencio Manglona, Robert Ulloa, and Alexander Apatang.

For the State Board of Education, four filed petitions for Saipan: Janice Tenorio, Victorino Cepeda, Marylou Ada, and Angel Hocog. For Rota's BOE seat, aspirants are Dexter Apatang and Tanya King.

Three legislative initiatives

Election commission executive director Robert A. Guerrero disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the following are the initiatives to be placed in the November ballots: House Legislative Initiative 17-2, which seeks to make the Attorney General an elected position; Senate Legislative Initiative 17-12, which seeks to amend Northern Marianas College's mission statement; and the newly passed House Legislative Initiative 17-5, which will allow the government to float a bond to pay off its $325 million debt to the troubled NMI Retirement Fund.

BOE chair Ada will seek reelection

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

State Board of Education chair Marylou S. Ada filed her petition yesterday at the Commonwealth Election Commission seeking a new term on the education board.

Ada's term will expire in January and was one of the two posts up for grabs in November. She will be running against board aspirants Angel Hocog and Vic Cepeda for the available seats on Saipan.

In the five years she served BOE, Ada has been elected twice as its chairperson. With the full backing of family and supporters, Ada is convinced that she will continue to be an asset on the education board.

Ada is the proud daughter of late former lieutenant governor Francisco Ada whom she said has been a great inspiration. "My father always reminded us that the greatest gift that we can give to our community is to be a public servant…and I want to continue his legacy as a dedicated one," she said yesterday.

Ada has a degree in political science from Oregon State University and later pursued law school at the University of New Mexico. Prior to her position at the board, she served as corporate director of the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. and executive director of the Commonwealth Development Authority.

The chairwoman believes that each board member at present has greatly contributed to the many success and improvements of the islands' Public School System.

If reelected, Ada vowed to continue the "momentum" of the PSS' growth by pushing sound policy decisions for students. Describing herself as a dedicated and committed person, Ada is convinced that she can offer more ideas to further the schools' progress.

Ada specifically cited her goal to make everybody on island take pride on its school system. She said it is the board's vision to make PSS the best place where one can get excellent free education.

Ada commended her colleagues for their team effort in bringing the system to where it is now. In acknowledging PSS finances as the board's greatest challenge, Ada said the establishment of the PSS Foundation will help address this aspect.

Board member Galvin Deleon Guerrero also announced yesterday that he will not seek reelection to concentrate on his new duties as president of Mt. Carmel School.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Commonwealth Election Commission administrative officer Julita Villagomez, left, receives from incumbent Board of Education chair Marylou S. Ada, right, her petition for candidacy yesterday while her campaign committee officials look on. From left are chair Kimo Rosario, supporter Brian Torres, and treasurer Dominic Camacho.

Tango Theatres donates to UOG Capital Campaign

Tango Theatres recently presented a check for $1,380 to University of Guam president Dr. Robert Underwood for the University's 60th Anniversary Capital Campaign.

Tango Theatres was the official Triton business partner for the month of June and donated proceeds from the sales of special food combos to the University. Funds raised for UOG's 60th Anniversary Capital Campaign will be used to support the construction of new facilities on the University campus. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Nicole Andre, University of Guam Endowment Foundation executive assistant; Marylou Mejares, Tango, Inc. operations manager' Dr. Robert A. Underwood, UOG president; Kit Lanuza Tango, Inc general manager; Norman Analista UOG Development and Alumni Affairs director, and Bojo Molina, Tango, Inc. marketing director.

Woman gets 18-month jail term for selling 'ice' near school

The federal court yesterday slapped an 18-month jail term against a woman who was convicted for selling methamphetamine or "ice" near a school on Saipan.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, however, gave defendant Yue Xin Tang credit for 176 days she already served in jail.

Upon release from prison, Tang will be placed on supervised release for six years.

Among the terms and conditions of supervised release is that the defendant shall be turned over to an immigration official for deportation proceedings.

Tang will be required to perform 100 hours of community work service and pay a $100 special assessment fee.

Manglona remanded the defendant into the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe recommended to follow the recommendation of the U.S. Probation's Office to impose the low-end of the sentencing guidelines. Backe stated that the defendant immediately acknowledged her guilt.

Court-appointed defense counsel Loren Sutton asked the court to consider his statement when sentencing his client.

In February 2012, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agents arrested Tang after they were able to buy $150 and $700 worth of "ice" from Tang using a "confidential source" on Oct. 27, 2011 and Nov. 8, 2011 respectively.

The following month, Tang pleaded guilty to the indictment charging her with distribution of controlled substance within 1,000 feet from a public school. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

BOE swears in new student rep

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

State Board of Education chair Marylou S. Ada swore into office Marianas High School student Audrey Joy Ada as the newest member of the board during a special meeting yesterday.

Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos appointed Ada as representative of public school students to the education board and her term begins immediately. This position is a non-voting member and is good for the duration of enrollment in public school.

She replaced Mary Hocog who recently graduated from Tinian High School. In attendance to witness the swearing-in ceremony were Ada's family, mentors, and friends who extended their congratulations to new board member.

Ada is currently a junior student at MHS. She has a tremendous background in student leadership programs and involvement at her school.

In her message yesterday, she described the opportunity to serve the board as an honor and privilege.

"It is such a privilege and distinct honor to be representing all the students from Saipan, Rota, and Tinian in this coming year. This is another time in my life where I am filled with anticipation and great expectations as I begin my duties as the board of education student representative," she told the crowd.

She said there are many decisions that the board makes in which affects the students. She vowed to become an effective voice for her peers.

"I will do my best to make sure that the students have a say in those matters. Being the student representative is not an easy job, but I will make the most of it and contribute my strongest dedication to the board," she said.

Ada promised to listen and take into her heart the concerns and welfare of the students in public schools.

"To the students, you have opened an unprecedented opportunity and that I will do my finest to be the voice for all grade levels. I will consult widely on how best to proceed with our common agendas in all areas for the PSS. I will listen attentively to your concerns, expectations, and admonitions," she said.

Ada had served her school's student council as president and vice presidents last school year. In school year 2010, she was named among the Youth Congress senators and was then elected as its vice speaker.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Board of Education chair Marylou S. Ada, right, swears into office newly appointed student representative Audrey Joy Ada, left, during a special meeting yesterday.

Muña-Barnes accepting donations for PH flood victims

HAGÅTÑA—Legislative Secretary Sen. Tina Rose Muña-Barnes is calling on Guam residents to support relief efforts that will aid flood victims in the Philippines.

Her office is currently accepting donations (monetary, non-perishable food items, towels, blankets, bed sheets) and is working with community leaders and the Philippine Consulate General in Guam to send donations as they are received.

In what has become the worst incidence of flooding since Typhoon Ondoy in 2009, much of the country remains submerged in water including the capital of Manila and its surrounding provinces. Weather analysts expect monsoon rains to continue to last until Thursday.

"We have a special connection to the Filipino community here in Guam. They are an integral part of our island family. With the recent news from abroad, there is a critical need for humanitarian assistance. Our brothers and sisters in the Philippines need our help. I urge our community to find it in their hearts to help our efforts, " said Muna-Barnes.

For more information, please call the Office of Senator Muña Barnes at 472-3455/6. ***(PR)***

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION TO BID
Purchase Gym Deck Floor Covers, Sports and
Exercise Equipment for the Rota High School Gymnasium
ITB12-GOV-102

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lieutenant Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Office, (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed bids to purchase gym deck floor covers, sports and exercise equipment for the Rota High School Gymnasium, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package will be available August 13, 2012 at the Governor's CIP Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building on Capitol Hill. A non-refundable payment of $25.00 is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment be presented when obtaining a project package. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid package in order to bid on this project. The ICC is available at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner on Capitol Hill. At the time of award, prospective bidder must obtain a U.S. Treasury Bond before a contract is executed.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the CNMI.

There will be a pre-bid meeting for this project on Wednesday, August 22, 2012, 9:00 AM., at the Governor's Office conference room, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan. Questions regarding the invitation to bid must be submit in writing to Leona Sablan, Project Coordinator, CIP Office, Office of the Governor or via facsimile (670) 664-2408, no later than August 29, 2012.

Sealed bids must be marked ITB12-GOV-102 Purchase Gym Deck Floor Covers, Sports and Exercise Equipment for the Rota High School Gymnasium. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two (2) copies of the sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP, no later than 10:00 AM, Monday, September 10, 2012. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 AM, September 10, 2012 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, one original and two (2) copies of the sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than, September 10, 2012, and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than September 19, 2012. Failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at 10:00 AM, September 20, 2012. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened and read at 1:00 PM, September 10, 2012.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must be U.S. Treasury listed and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond. Project performance time for completion is 90 calendar days. The daily-liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) One Hundred Dollars ($100.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by 90 calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid in the best interests of the CNMI government.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos, Lieutenant Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director of Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER
Tests Show Coliform Bacteria in Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Saipan Water

Because of the recent *E.coli* contamination and other samples that tested positive for total coliform bacteria in the CUC Saipan water system during July, we have exceeded the allowable limit. Therefore, we are in violation of the drinking water standard. Although this incident is no longer an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. We took 129 samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria during July 2012. 17.05 percent of our samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than five (5) percent of samples may do so.

What should I do?

- You no longer need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been you would have been notified within 24 hours. Total coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. **Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.**

Usually, coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the treatment or distribution system (pipes). Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or *E. coli*, are present. **We did not find any of these bacteria in our subsequent testing.** If we had, we would have notified you immediately.

What is being done?

Leaks were detected and repaired in the following areas: As Matuis, Dandan, Gualo Rai, Kagman, Navy Hill, Sadog Tasi, San Vicente, and Tanapag. Water operators also increased disinfection and flushed water lines in the Dandan, Koblerville, and San Antonio areas. Further testing shows that this problem has been resolved.

For more information, please contact CUC Water Division at 322-5030 or PO Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation.

State Water System ID#: MP0000001. Date distributed: August 8, 2012

CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer
Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, PO Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 235-7025 through 235-7032 Facsimile: (670) 234-5131

Hopwood welcomes students to new school year

Hopwood Jr. High School is welcoming all incoming 7th graders and ongoing 8th grade students, their parents, and guardians to another new school year.

"This year is going to be another exciting year for everyone and we are certain that our students are anxious and excited to report to school to meet their friends, classmates, teachers, faculty, and staff," said school principal Jonas M. Barcinas.

He assured students and their parents that Hopwood is ready to welcome and nurture all students that enter the "golden gate" of the school and start the journey of great learning, adventure, enthusiasm, motivation to learning, and explore all the possibilities of the school's programs.

Barcinas said Hopwood students can enjoy academics, sports, extra-curricular competitions, school clubs, just to name a few, in the coming school year.

"We highly encourage all of the parents and guardians to take an active role in supporting their child in their learning and involvement in school activities. We also encourage the parents and guardians to support the school in any way possible if they want the best educational institution for their child/ren. Thank you all and welcome back to school Hilitais to our campus," he said.

Hopwood dates to remember:

■ Aug. 27-Sept. 1: All Hopwood staff must report to work in preparation for the opening of the school year.

■ Aug. 29: 7th grade orientation only from 8am to 10am. For all 8th graders orientation only from 10:30am to 12pm. Get to know or meet the HJHS faculty and staff, your cohort teachers, purchase your school uniforms, tour the campus, pick up your class schedules, student/parent handbook. Students must sign in with their parents for accountability.

■ Sept. 4: First day of school. Students should report to school at 8am. Instructional Block begins at 8:30am. Dismissal for all students is at 3:10pm. Car riders will be picked up outside the school fence. Sped students will be picked in front of building A-8.

Other reminders:

■ School uniform at $9 each (for both blue and gold color) will be available in the main office.

■ Parents are highly encouraged to register their child/ren if they have not done so. They must provide all the necessary documents to the registrar's office

■ Fill out the Registration form.

■ From off-island? You will need to submit all the proper transfer documents.

■ Need updated Health Card and health insurance.

■ Map to and from the school.

■ Email address, phone/cell numbers.

■ Fill out the free meal form and the bus form.

■ Authorization of family member or guardian designated to pick a student.

■ If you have any questions, please contact the school at 237-3421/3425/3495. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Registration for Kagman High 2012-2013

Calling all Ayuyus! If you plan to attend Kagman High School this school year please be sure to register soon! All students must register every year to update contact information and renew health certificates. This is important to our team to be able to contact families during the school year and to be sure every student that attends our school is in good health.

Our data tells us that over 100 incoming freshmen from ChaCha Ocean view have NOT registered yet. All students must register soon so they will be able to get their schedules at the orientation. Orientation will take place in the KHS Cafeteria. Orientation is mandatory for all students and parents to attend. Schedules will be handed out at orientation so that students will know where to go on the first day. The orientation schedule is as follows:

■ Wednesday, Aug. 29: 1pm freshmen and 2:30pm sophomores

■ Thursday, Aug. 30: 1pm Juniors and 2:30pm seniors

Updates on our schools academic progress and the most recent student data will be presented. Students and parents can also meet their new teachers, counselors and familiarize themselves with the campus on this day. ***(PR)***

English Language Institute

Registration for the UOG English Language Institute's Fall 2012 semester ends Aug. 31 for I-20 students. Green Card holders and U.S. Citizens may register through Sept. 5. The first day of class for ELI students is September 13, 2012.

Application and Medical Insurance Forms can be downloaded from www.uog.edu/eli. For more information contact (671) 735-2761/2 or email elienglish@uguam.uog.edu. ***(PR)***

JKPL suspends bookmobile outreach service

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library Bookmobile Outreach Services would like to let the Public and Community know that bookmobile services will be cancelled from Aug. 14 to 18, 2012. The Bookmobile staff will be on training. Bookmobile services will resume on Aug. 21, 2012. We apologize for the inconvenience. ***(PR)***

WSR school uniform orders no ongoing

William S. Reyes Elementary School uniform orders are now open for school year 2012-2013. Stop by the main office to order. T-shirt sizes youth XS-XL and adult small-XL is $10 each and adult XXL is $12 each. Deadline to order uniform is Aug. 22, 2012. ***(PR)***

Professions licensing board to amend regs

The Health Care Professions Licensing Board is notifying the general public that it proposes to amend the regulations for dentists, dental hygienists, dental therapists, dental assistants, and acupuncturists in the Vol. 34, No. 07, July 29, 2012 publication of the Commonwealth Register.

The HCPLB will also publish new regulations to license/regulate EMTS (Emergency Medical Responders, Emergency Medical Technicians, Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians, EMT-Paramedics).

Interested persons may obtain hard copy or electronic copy of the proposed amendments from the board's office located at Bldg. No. 1242 Pohnpei Court, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or contact the HCPLB at the above number or email address.

Anyone interested in commenting on the new/proposed amendments may do so within 30 days from the date the notice was published in the Commonwealth Register. ***(PR)***

Saipan and Northern Islands Soil and Water Conservation District meeting on Aug. 14

The Saipan and Northern Islands Soil and Water Conservation District will be conducting their monthly meeting on Aug. 14, 2012, at 10am at the Natural Resources Conservation Service office on Beach Road, Garapan. For more information contact Diane Gabaldon at 256-3320. ***(PR)***

Veterans outreach set for Aug. 13-16

This is to inform all Veterans that Tina San Agustin, Federal Department of Veterans Affairs Senior Veteran's Service Representative from Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, will be on Rota and Saipan for Veterans Outreach on Veterans Federal Benefits. She will also be entertaining your questions and assist you with your claims.

Date, time and place are as follows:

■ Rota: Monday, Aug. 13, 2012, 0830-1630 at the WIA Office

■ Saipan: Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2012, 0900-1630

Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2012. 0800-1630

Thursday, Aug. 16, 2012, 0800-1130 at the Office of Military/Veterans Affairs, Building 1364, Capitol Hill

If you wish to make an appt or for further information, please contact Bernie B. Dela Cruz at the Office of Military/Veterans affairs at (670) 664-2650/59. ***(PR)***

SWEARING IN

Commonwealth Development Authority board legal counsel F. Matthew Smith, standing left, swears into office re-appointed board member Edward C. Sablan, right, during a recent board meeting while CDA executive director Manuel Sablan looks on.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Aug. 9, 2000

NMC tuition competitive with other Pacific colleges

Compared to other two-year colleges in the Pacific, the Northern Marianas College offers a fairly competitive tuition rate, according to an in-house study commissioned by the college. Based on a survey of nine Pacific community colleges, NMC ranked 3rd among colleges offering the lowest resident student tuition rate at $65 per credit. The College of the Marshall Islands is recorded to have the highest tuition rate for its resident students at $95 per credit. Other state colleges in Hawaii, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia offer an average tuition ranging from $40 to $60 per credit.

AG warns Saipan mayor against appointment

Attorney General Herb Soll has warned Saipan Mayor Jose C. Sablan against appointing an acting mayor who will carry out official functions while he is off-island because it is unlawful to do so. The AGO's legal opinion was requested by Mayor Sablan who expressed concern on the earlier legal analysis made by lawyer David Wiseman that he had no constitutional authority to take such action. Mr. Wiseman advised that any acts performed by such a delegated person would be "highly questionable." In an effort to resolve the problem, Mr. Soll recommended to the Mayor's Office to draft and seek the passage of a local law for the appointment of an acting-Mayor.

Aug. 9, 2001

Bill to free Rota-bound devises from excise tax

The House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communication has recommended the passage of a bill that would suspend the collection of excise taxes on telecommunication machinery and equipment intended for Rota. According to panel chairman Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho, his committee recommended the passage of House Bill 12-056, also known as the "Excise Tax Abatement Act of 2000," after finding out that it is a replica of Public Law 11-123, which was passed by a two-thirds vote of the Eleventh Legislature in 2000. The measure's author, Vice-Speaker Alejo M. Mendiola Jr., had moved for the suspension of the excise tax on telecommunications equipment going to Rota, saying this will facilitate the installation of equipment necessary for the health and welfare of the people of Rota.

Security deposit weeds out nuisance investors

While experts have identified a three-pronged problem arising from the $100,000 security deposit required from foreign investors, the measure has generally helped the CNMI weed out nuisance or illegitimate businessmen. The Department of Commerce said the approach has served its purpose in screening legitimate foreign investors who are worthy of and qualified to receive long-term business permit from the CNMI government. Commerce officials said the requirement was established due to the abuses of the system in the past wherein investors would show proof that funds were deposited in their account, yet they did not really own those funds.

Aug. 9, 2002

Senate OKs beyond-the-cap salaries

The Senate has unanimously adopted a joint resolution that approves the salaries of government employees since October 1, 1999, that were beyond the ceilings set by law. It remains to be seen, however, if the House of Representatives will concur with the resolution, considering that it had earlier turned down a similar request by the Babauta administration. The upper chamber voted 9-0 to adopt Senate Joint Resolution 13-7 during a session yesterday afternoon, sanctioning the over-the-cap salaries of 169 government employees who have worked for the CNMI government within the period from October 1, 1999, to the present.

Reprogrammed funds support govt hospital

The Babauta administration has been reprogramming funds to support the needs of the Commonwealth Health Center, but it remained unclear whether or not the Department of Public Health's spending level already exceeded the $31-million appropriation for this fiscal year. Public Health Secretary James U. Hofschneider said that there will be no interruption of health care, services as well as the work hours of its employees, even if the department had recently divulged that its spending level was already close to the budget level. Ironically, though, the secretary revealed that the department is currently reviewing its staffing to identify non-essential positions. Hofschneider said, however, that there would be no reduction in manpower.

Pacific

PNG prime minister: Expect cuts to govt sectors

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (The National)—Government departments and agencies can expect cuts, restructure or outright abolition, Prime Minister Peter O'Neill told heads of departments in a meeting yesterday.

» Public servants told to prepare for $239.2 million shortfall

This is a result of a revenue shortfall of K500 million [US$239.2 million] and cost over-runs in the general election.

O'Neill and his caretaker ministers were informed by Treasury Secretary Simon Tosali that revenue might fall by about K500 million due to fall in commodity prices and the appreciation of the kina against the U.S. dollar.

A detailed report on the performance of the 2012 budget would be presented to cabinet when it is ready.

O'Neill and his caretaker ministers met with all departments and urged them to work harder and be prepared for austerity measures to be announced with the budget.

O'Neill

" We have to roll up our sleeves and work harder. We have to be prepared to put in the long hours. You (public servants) will sack yourselves if you are not prepared for this," the prime minister said.

The heads of departments, led by Chief Secretary Manasupe Zurenuoc, assured O'Neill they were ready to work with his government.

The prime minister asked for the meeting to outline the broad policies of his government and what he expects from the public servants.

He said the LNG project promised a lot for the people, but there were dangers of missed opportunities.

"If we miss out, that will be because you and I have not been doing our jobs," he told the public servants. "We have spent billions of kina in education and health, but we are not making a difference. There is something wrong. That is why I am asking for the extra effort."

The prime minister is expected to announce his full cabinet tomorrow.

Caretaker ministers who attended the meeting included Don Polye, Patrick Pruaitch, Charles Abel, Ben Micah, Mao Zeming, Sir Puka Temu, William Duma and John Pundari.

Australian court says motel can't ban prostitute

ROD McGUIRK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australia's hotel industry has been rocked by a court's ruling that a prostitute was illegally discriminated against by a motel owner who refused to rent her a room to work from.

The ruling has stunned hotel and motel owners, who thought they had a right to decide what sort of businesses were operating from their premises.

The prostitute, identified only as G.K., had taken her discrimination case against the Drovers Rest Motel in the coal mining town of Moranbah to the Queensland state Civil and Administrative Tribunal after management refused to rent her a room.

The 3 1/2-star motel's lawyer, David Edwards, said Wednesday that the court notified him this week that it had upheld the prostitute's claim of discrimination. Edwards confirmed she is seeking damages, reported Wednesday in The Australian newspaper to be 30,000 Australian dollars ($32,000).

The tribunal's reasons for its decision have not yet been made public.

Prostitution is legal in Queensland, and discrimination based on lawful sexual activity is outlawed. Prostitutes are streaming to Outback mining towns such as Moranbah, where they base themselves for short periods to cash in on an Australian mining boom fueled by Chinese demand for raw materials.

Edwards said he was considering appealing the ruling.

Richard Munro, chief executive of the Accommodation Association of Australia, a tourism industry lobby group, said the Queensland and Australian governments should consider changing laws to ensure that hotel and motel owners can decide what sort of businesses are being operated under their roofs.

"It's absolutely illogical," Munro said. "If a hairdresser decided to set up shop in the motel and started inviting people in to get their hair cut, I think the motel owner would have the right to say, 'Hang on, that's a different business operating out of my business.'"

"If a prostitute decided to start working out of a shopping mall, the owners would have something to say about it. There is some protection for the rights of the motel owner here," he said.

Munro said his group would seek legal advice after hearing the tribunal's reasons.

He questioned whether prostitution could be legally conducted in an environment such as a motel where there are minors.

He said a prostitute could attract customers late at night who could knock on the wrong door and disturb other guests.

"If the amenity of the guests is disturbed, owners should have the right to protect the overall guests' experience by removing people who are disturbing the peace," Munro said.

Janelle Fawkes, chief executive of the Scarlet Alliance, Australian Sex Workers Association, said the ruling was a major win for the prostitution industry throughout Australia.

"Accommodation discrimination is a major issue for sex workers, but it is not by any means the only form of systemic discrimination that sex workers experience," she said.

"The anti-discrimination legislation in Queensland is very clear that it is illegal to discriminate against someone on the basis of lawful sexual activity, including sex work, so we appreciate the finding and believe it is a big win for sex workers throughout Australia because it sends a very clear message that this kind of systemic discrimination will not be tolerated," she said.

US-SINO RELATIONS AP
Adm. Samuel Locklear III, the U.S. Pacific Command commander, speaks to reporters at his headquarters in Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii on Wednesday, July 25, 2012. Locklear says he's seeing positive signs as he tries to develop ties between the U.S. and Chinese militaries.

70th anniversary of Battle of Guadalcanal remembered in Solomons

MELBOURNE, Australia (Radio Australia)—The 70th anniversary of the Battle of Guadalcanal was commemorated in Solomon Islands on Tuesday.

» US raid on Japanese-controlled airstrip commemorated

The battle took place when the men of the first division of the U.S. Marine Corps staged an amphibious assault to take control of a Japanese built airstrip.

Their action, which marked the first land defeat of World War Two for the Japanese, kickstarted the Allies' fight back.

Historian with the strategic defense studies centre at the Australian National University Dr. Garth Pratten told Radio Australia's Pacific Beat program the tropical conditions of Solomon Islands were "very alien" for the Allied troops.

"[At the time] They're still learning a great deal about how to exist in tropical environments, about the diseases which are found there, about how to resupply, the ability to maintain a force across beach-heads and conduct amphibious operations," Dr. Pratten said.

Current Commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, Admiral Cecil D. Haney, praised the brave work of the men.

"Trying to keep the history alive, these courageous heroic veterans had some very horrifying conditions by which to do their work."

A small number of the surviving forces were able to attend the ceremony, including Walt Gratten, a sailor in the U.S. Navy, who was on the USS Cushing when it was sunk.

"I think there was an indelible ink mark on all of us that were able to witness this particular set of ceremonies," Mr. Haney said.

PACIFIC BRIEFS

New Zealand scientists monitor volcano that blew

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—A minor earthquake has scientists continuing to closely monitor a New Zealand volcano that erupted for the first time in more than a century this week. The steam-triggered eruption Monday of Mount Tongariro on New Zealand's North Island sent boulders flying, covered surrounding areas in ash and disrupted domestic flights. Scientists flew over the area for the first time Wednesday. Volcanologist Steve Sherburn says it appears the eruption blew three new holes in the north side of the mountain, including one about the size of a house. He says it's not yet clear what to expect next from the volcano, which continues to vent steam. He says the overnight quake, which had a magnitude of less than 3, continues a recent series of temblors in the area.

Medic team headed to Antarctica to rescue American

SYDNEY (AP)—An Australian rescue team is heading to Antarctica to evacuate an American expeditioner experiencing a medical emergency. The Australian Antarctic Division said Wednesday it is sending a specialist medical team to the U.S. McMurdo research station in Antarctica. The team will first stop in Christchurch, New Zealand, and wait until weather and light conditions on the frozen continent allow them to land safely. It is winter in Antarctica, and flights are usually only made during the summer. The Australian agency said they could not provide any more details on the nature of the emergency and directed all queries to the U.S. National Science Foundation. The foundation runs the research station and is coordinating the rescue. Officials there did not immediately return messages seeking comment.

Tongan police also involved with Phocea probe in Vanuatu

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (Radio New Zealand International—Tongan police have begun working with their Vanuatu counterparts in investigating the luxury yacht, the Phocea. The boat was seized in Port Vila last month amid allegations involving drugs, weapons and the use of fake Vanuatu passports. Radio Tonga says it was told that while the mega yacht was in Nuku'alofa, a luncheon was hosted and attended by government leaders and MPs. It says following a complaint about unusual activities, the vessel was searched in Nukualofa and cleared by customs officials. However, Tongan authorities are yet to establish how Tongan national Maikolo Tangatalakepa got onboard. He was among the passengers in Port Vila but Radio Tonga says he had last been in Nukualofa in 2006. Radio Tonga also says 10 people arrived in Tonga by plane to board the yacht, including the reported owner, Anh Quan Saken, and five women from Serbia and the Philippines.

'Super plant' processing facility planned for Cook Islands

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (Radio New Zealand International)—A grower of the super plant, moringa oleifera, says a new extraction facility for Cook Island beauty products means growers have the opportunity to make more money from the plant. Hugh Graham has been planting the moringa oleifrea on a commercial basis on Mauke and Rarotonga for two years. He says he primarily sells the tree's leaves for herbal tea or to go in meals. Mr. Graham says the director of the company which has built the new extraction plant for Te Tika Bioactive Cook Islands Oils, Dr. Graham Matheson, is allowing growers to use the facilities to get more commercial use from the super-plant. "The Moringa Oleifera seeds, their pods have a oil, it's known as the Oil of Ben, this particular oil is fetching very high prices in the U.S. market today. With Te Tika starting up, we can now give the seeds to his laboratory and no doubt they can process the oil out of these seeds." Dr. Graham Matheson says Oil of Ben ranges from 50 to 500 dollars a liter, giving farmers the potential to generate several thousand dollars of additional income a year.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Romney the tax simplifier

Politicians on both sides of the partisan divide want to simplify the federal tax code by pruning the thicket of loopholes, exemptions and credits. In fact, President Obama and his presumptive Republican opponent, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, have both promised to seek tax simplification if elected in November. A new study by three fiscal policy experts, however, shows that if simplification is coupled with a deep cut in rates, as Romney has proposed, lower- and middle-income Americans would have to pay more in taxes just to keep the same amount of revenue flowing into the Treasury. That's because the necessary reduction in exemptions, deductions and credits would more than offset the savings from the lower rates.

There are compelling reasons to simplify the tax code, such as reducing tax-avoidance trickery and lowering compliance costs. On the other hand, the complexity stems in part from tax breaks that are widely enjoyed, including the deduction for mortgage interest and the exemption for employee health benefits. And despite the broad support for simplification, the parties are sharply split over whether Congress should use the proceeds to reduce the deficit or lower tax rates.

Romney has proposed to reduce rates by 20 percent, eliminate the alternative minimum tax, end the estate tax and give lower- and middle-income families a larger tax break for investment income. He's also said, however, that his tax plan would not increase the deficit. So to offset the cost of the tax cuts, he has proposed to curtail unspecified tax breaks for individuals.

The study by the Tax Policy Center—a joint effort by the centrist Brookings Institution and the liberal Urban Institute think tanks—estimates that individual tax exemptions, deductions and credits would have to be reduced by as much as two-thirds to cover the $360-billion annual cost of Romney's tax cuts. Because those breaks are significantly more valuable to low- and middle-income families than Romney's proposed tax cuts would be, the authors conclude, the Romney plan's benefits would accrue mainly to the wealthy, and its costs to everybody else.

The Romney campaign and the right-of-center Tax Foundation argue that the new study underestimates the economic growth that would be spurred by Romney's plan to lower individual and corporate tax rates and cut federal spending. That growth would help pay for the tax cuts, allowing lawmakers to keep a larger percentage of the individual tax breaks while still bringing in the same amount of revenue. But even the Tax Foundation acknowledged that Romney's approach would make the tax code less progressive, shifting some of the burden from the wealthy onto low- and middle-income taxpayers. If nothing else, the Tax Policy Center study should make lawmakers more conscious of the potential winners and losers in tax simplification as they debate changes in the tax code over the coming months. And in the meantime, Romney should reveal more details of his tax plan so that voters of more modest means can see what they stand to lose.

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I DON'T CARE ABOUT REPUBLICANS OR DEMOCRATS.
BUT I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I DO CARE ABOUT.
I'M TIRED OF THIS ECONOMY, AND WATCHING MY STANDARD OF LIVING WITHER AWAY.
KIRK
I DON'T WANT TO LIVE IN A WORLD WHERE NOT LOSING GROUND IS AN ACCOMPLISHMENT.
CANDIDATES WHO DROP THE NEGATIVE ADS AND START TO ADDRESS MY CONCERNS WILL GET MY VOTE.
I'M AN AVERAGE AMERICAN, AND I APPROVE THIS MESSAGE..

Is culture the key to Israel's success?

By MICHAEL SMERCONISH
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Michael Smerconish writes for The Philadelphia Inquirer.

Three years ago, Dan Senor, now a foreign-policy adviser to Mitt Romney, was in my radio studio promoting a book he'd co-authored called "Start-up Nation: The Story of Israel's Economic Miracle." It is a book that Romney acknowledges as having shaped his thinking on Israel.

Back then, Senor laughed when I said reading the book made me think of something once told to me by Bobby Greenberg, a businessman and former Philadelphia treasurer: "Always try to dress British and think Yiddish." But Senor was resistant when I said, "There is something cultural to be said for Jewish success. Why don't we flat out say that, acknowledge it, embrace it, and ask how to emulate it?"

Instead, Senor told me that some had offered an oversimplified reaction to the book: "I get it, Jews are smart. Jews are good at business, you have a country full of Jews, shocker, their country has done reasonably well." But, said Senor, that missed a key point: "If Jews are smart, they don't have a monopoly on smart, there are plenty of people who are smart." He proceeded to praise Singaporean eighth graders and Finnish scientists and said, "These are smart people, the problem is they are not entrepreneurial." Soon after our discussion, he shared with me an advance of a Wall Street Journal review of his book. He noted in his email that the review agreed with my take that "the Jewish gene and culture are the key factors." The review was written by James K. Glassman, executive director of the George W. Bush Institute. Glassman observed: "The authors ... dispose, a bit too blithely, the argument from ethnic or religious exceptionalism, dismissing 'unitary Jewishness' or even individual talent as major reasons for Israel's high-tech success. (George Gilder, in a recent book treating some of the same matters, "The Israel Test," disagrees: 'Israel today concentrates the genius of the Jews.')"

Last week, I was motivated to go back and listen to my conversation with Senor, knowing that he had accompanied Romney on the candidate's recent trip to Israel. There, Romney created a stir by reportedly saying that "culture" explains the economic disparity between the Israelis and Palestinians. "Culture makes all the difference. And as I come here and I look out over this city and consider the accomplishments of the people of this nation, I recognize the power of at least culture and a few other things," Romney reportedly said.

His comments have been criticized from the left and right. John McCain said it is government, "not cultures," that defines the difference between Israelis and Palestinians. And at Huffington Post, Peter Goodman wrote: "By standing in Jerusalem on Monday and declaring that Jews are richer than Palestinians because of their culture—this, as he was asking wealthy Jews for money at a campaign fund-raiser—Romney effectively exploited the Israeli-Palestinian divide as cover to enunciate a racist notion that resonates with a key slice of the electorate at home: white voters."

Romney backtracked on the remarks while still overseas, but once home seemed to underscore the controversial comments. In Poland, Romney told Fox News, "I ... did not speak about the Palestinian culture or the decisions made in their economy. That's an interesting topic that deserves scholarly analysis, but I didn't address that. I certainly don't plan to address that during my campaign. Instead, I will point out that the choices a society makes have a profound impact on the economy and the vitality of that society." But he just wrote a piece for National Review titled "Culture Does Matter." So I don't know what Romney really thinks. But my view is unchanged from when I first raised the matter with the man now advising him on foreign policy,

including Israel.

I get that Romney misstated some facts and offered a view that was both simplistic and naive. The Washington Post reported that Romney's comparison between Israel's economy and that of the Palestinian territories (a comparison that treats the territories as a country) was wrong. He said Israel's annual per capita gross domestic product is $21,000—it is actually $32,282—and that the Palestinian figure is $10,000—more than five times larger than it actually is.

And a more accurate and complete answer to the question of why there are pronounced economic differences between Israelis and Palestinians would have discussed the effects of Israeli security measures. The CIA World Fact Book notes that with regard to the Gaza Strip: "Israeli-imposed border closures, which became more restrictive after Hamas seized control of the territory in June 2007, have resulted in high unemployment, elevated poverty rates, and the near collapse of the private sector that had relied on export markets." And in the case of the West Bank: "Israeli closure policies continue to disrupt labor and trade flows, industrial capacity, and basic commerce, eroding the productive capacity of the West Bank economy." Maybe if Romney had used the word chutzpah there would be less of a controversy. Senor's book had an entire chapter discussing that business attribute. But three years ago, Senor stopped short of embracing the sort of

thing Romney seemed to offer while in Jerusalem.

"If you say it's just a Jewish trait, I am worried people in this country will throw up their hands and say, 'Well, we can't learn from them because it is unique to them genetically and culturally,'" Senor told me. Too bad we ran out of time before he could answer my final question: Would the Israeli economic miracle continue unabated if we swapped the populations of Israel and the United States?

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

August birthdays

By JAIME R. VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Former PSS teacher Jaime Vergara now teaches at Hang Gong Hang Tian Da Zue, Shenyang Aerospace University and is currently traveling in north Inner Mongolia in the prefecture of Hulunbeier.

My family is heavy on August birthdays with two daughters and a sister wailing their waaaah on this month continuing monthly thereafter with markings until November. In our Asian tradition of wearing something new on natal day (the personal New Year, as it were), my mother always prepared a new set of clothes that would then be given to the children starting August onward.

My daughter in Hawaii sent her greetings this year with the title "the gift of life," a reverence towards a gift that others of questionable sanity seem to casually snuffed, as in the recent attempt at another bombing in Pune, the deranged drama at the Aurora moviehouse shooting, and more recently, the racially loaded deep-seated hate crime at the Wisconsin Sheik temple and the burning twice within a month of a mosque in Missouri.

St. Augustine's original sin dogma had the consequence of many in the Christian communion growing up trying to emerge out of the handicap of perceiving birth as a lamentation in a tragedy at the Garden of Eden. I was schooled thoroughly in the objectivity of genetics and gynecology. I had repeated my mantra often enough in this page but given the tenacity of Augustine's centuries-old life apology, I will state it again. "I am a unique, unrepeateable gift of life into human history. There has never been one like me before, and there will never be another one like me ever again." The same holds true of everyone who survive the watery world of nine months in the womb to the polluted air of the 20th century.

The science of the above statement is the truth that only one out of some 200 million sperms is chosen to fertilize a single ovum. That is a winning statistical probability by any casino odds!

In my own myth-making, image-inventing chore, an August birthday is exactly what the name of the month implies: imposing, impressive, grand, majestic, dignified, stately, noble, and eminent. And this is a matter of course. Add our free willful choices, and the incidence of our birth is truly no less than the "gift of life" of my daughter's salutation.

Now, you may ask, what has this to do with the price of camote tops at the Subalu market? A lot! What has become clear in our life journey, the story we tell about our entry, upbringing, maturity, and inevitable demise, pretty much determines the style by which we live it. We all know the plethora of whining stories that are floating around, constantly broadcast, preached, and written about even in this page. That we do not deprive anyone the constitutional right to whine, goes without saying, but the affirmation of a treasured life is lost in the cynicism and despair of our age, left to romantic poets to extol since they sense the wonder of the chrysalis metamorphosing into a butterfly.

As former Pea Eye Solicitor General Rudy Orbiztondo was fond of saying during our student days, "Life is simply a matter of attitude!"

I don't think he meant then, as I do not, even now, mean a cold rational assessment of our existential prospects. Recent discovery of the larger cardio-neural system of every human being, as compared to our mental (brainy) faculties, renders our processes of cognition and recognition, a function of the whole body—sensually, emotionally, and intellectually. Our hearts can be stout, really. That affirms the democratic notion that every individual's uniqueness needs to be culturally affirmed and politically protected. Attitudes may be learned, but they require our consent, if not our conscious choice, and that is why we are insistent on the virtue of individual response-ability.

We nod to the long tradition of celebrating birthdays as the quintessential affirmation of life itself. No two people are alike. Not even twins. Therein lies the challenge of any utopian dreamer of any socialist and collectivist dream. It must, of necessity, affirm diversity asthe basis of unity, and make the preeminence of individual choice to finally prevail!

As a parent, I must confess that the urge to protect and shield offsprings from the viccissitudes of life looms large in every cultural orientation. I was blessed with parents who made it clear when I was old enough to understand that "we want you to be an extension of our personality, and therefore, your choice will be our choice."

My parenting style followed the same pattern and showed when my second daughter wanted to learn how to swim in a public swimming pool in Guam. I threw her into the pool. Of course, I was ready to jump after her, should her flailing fail to revive her instinct of having survived watery existence for nine months. It didn't. She survived and learned to swim in great style.

Liu Xiang, the tendon-challenged 2004 Olympics gold medal hurdler of China, withdrew in the Beijing 2008 after a false start, and came back with a vengeance since. In his heat in London, the hurt showed when he stumbled in his first hurdle, but instead of bemoaning his ailment, he turned around on his way to the lockers and skipped with his remaining foot while a wheel chair trailed, kissing the last hurdle and joining the first finisher of the heat at the end of the course. Born in July '83, he just turned 29. We make the champion an honorary August celebrant!

Birthdays. Everyone has one. It is a time to reflect on one's life journey, and the story one lives to tell about it.

Marilyn Monroe, the eternal shape shifter

By LOIS BANNER
Los Angeles Times

Lois Banner, a professor of history and gender studies at the University of Southern California, is the author of "American Beauty" and the just-published "Marilyn: The Passion and the Paradox." She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Why is Marilyn Monroe still an American icon 50 years after her death? She is endlessly analyzed in films and biographies; her image appears on T-shirts and posters; her popularity is reflected in the 52,000 Marilyn-related items for sale on eBay. My University of Southern California students, fixated on contemporary pop culture, know little about 1950s Hollywood stars, except for Monroe. Like everyone else, they puzzle over her death, respond to her beauty, recognize her paradoxes: the ur-blond child-woman, the virgin-whore of the Western imagination.

But it is another role—that of shape shifter—that makes her especially relevant. Monroe's multiple transformations allow each generation, even each individual, to create a Marilyn to their own specifications.

It is well-known that Norma Jeane Dougherty (her name when Hollywood discovered her) actively shaped the person known as Marilyn Monroe after signing a contract with Twentieth Century Fox in 1946. But the complexity of the Marilyn that emerged is often overlooked. She wasn't just split into the shy and angry child Norma Jeane and the exuberant and sexual adult Marilyn Monroe. "I've got many quivers to my bow," she told her close friend Susan Strasberg. "I can become anyone they want me to be."

She loved intrigue and playing practical jokes, possessed a self-deprecating wit and had a love-hate relationship with her celebrity status. She used aliases and wore disguises; she had secret friends and secret apartments. A psychologist might say her split self was caused by a childhood spent in 11 homes and an orphanage, and by episodes of childhood sex abuse. Such trauma could have fractured her persona and caused her to "dissociate." We can guess that she drew on this dissociation as she shaped her many public personas.

By all reports, Monroe could be shy, with no self-confidence, taking drugs to keep herself on track; or a banshee screaming in anger; or so charismatic that few could resist her. Photographs prove she could be a glamour queen on the order of Marlene Dietrich, or a lost waif who resembled Shirley Temple. On screen she was a convincing "dumb blond" clown; in interviews, an ironist who made fun of dumb blonds; in acting class, a dramatic artist in the making.

When she married baseball great Joe DiMaggio in 1954 and famously promised to give up her career, she was the maternal, domestic Marilyn who liked to cook and clean. When she married playwright Arthur Miller in 1956, she was the intellectual Marilyn who read books and wanted to be a serious actress.

Feminists can claim her because she fought the dictatorial Hollywood moguls and won, standing in the vanguard of the few female stars who created their own production companies. She also took the extraordinary step of publicly describing the sex abuse visited on her as a child, even though in the 1950s such abuse was likely to be regarded as the fault of the female victim, even if a child.

Naming such abuse was central to 1970s feminism. Post-feminists who dislike victimization theories can point out that she participated in her own "sexual objectification"—actively presenting herself as a sex object for men in tight, low-cut dresses and no underwear. She did so, by the accounts of her friends, because she understood the power that such explicit sexuality gave her over men—a post-feminist stance. She also saw it as rebellious, as furthering the sexual revolution that would peak after her death.

As new documents surface, new interpretations of Monroe challenge old conclusions about her and create new complexities. The latest finding, in line with the rise of queer theory and the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender movements, is that she had lesbian affairs and was bisexual by nature. Most biographers reject this possibility, but papers at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, combined with a new reading of Monroe's autobiography, "My Story," and revelations in the papers of Ralph Greenson, her last psychoanalyst, suggest that it's true.

In the end, Monroe is one of the most complex female public figures in American history, and that real complexity plays a role in her continuing ability to fascinate us. We admire her beauty, puzzle over her mysteries and see her as a reflection of the quixotic, multifaceted, always striving and often contradictory American character.

In the final analysis, however, we make Marilyn an icon because we can also make her into whatever we want her to be. I think she would be pleased.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Maintaining the status quo

A while ago I asked what the priorities were concerning the upcoming budget year. It is starting to appear as though the main priority is maintaining the status quo.

The over-bloated Legislative Branch is interested in procuring tablets, unnecessary toy trinkets. Trinkets that wont be used by some come January. This, as they muddle through a half-hearted debate about whether they should cut their discretionary funds or shrink the size of their inflated organization.

In the meantime, the Public School System is having a hard time paying its electric bills. Unexplained increases in the next budget will be going to put back non-essential public employees to an 80-hour work week. Non-essential services will be restored. But are these services needed anymore?

Its not the cry for services that are behind this move. So one has to ask what type of political system is being run in the CNMI. Is it a capitalistic system or a socialist system? The medical infrastructure is in shambles. Why wasn't this unexplained budget increase used to help shore-up that? Or is there no real intention to do so?

The local utility organization is having a hard time rising capital to repair and replace its infrastructure. It needs cash. Yet the local government does not pay its electric bills. Were the leaders ever intending to pay these outstanding bills? The Retirement Fund is another example. A judge ruled that the government owes the Fund money. Another judge called the treatment of the Fund shameful. Were the leaders ever intending to pay this obligation? Some citizens can afford to pay their own way off-island to seek medical assistance, because its not available in the CNMI. The others have to pray more. Utility rates are among the highest in the country. What a way to address the concerns of the citizens. Improve the infrastructure. NO! Instead provide non-essential services. And who doesn't think that these non-essential services will be cut around spring by some unexplained, unforeseen, unexpected emergency.

There is talk of a pension bond to fix the Retirement Fund, but there is resistance regarding the bond. No CNMI tax payer wants to pay the possible (if it can be sold) $30 million a year in interest. But who is thinking of the $50 million a year that will be gone, sucked completely out of the local economy, in about 23 months when the fund dries up? This is not including the multiplier effect this money has plus the added cost of helping those destitute pensioners. All this while the food stamp lines get longer and longer and private sector wants more time for their contract workers to stay here.

This sounds like a real pickle. How can things improve for the future? If things continue with the status quo how will this place look in 30 months? What is the attraction to bring in new businesses? What is the incentive to keep remaining businesses from moving? What kind of a place is this?

Juan Cruz
Austin, Texas

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲87 ° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

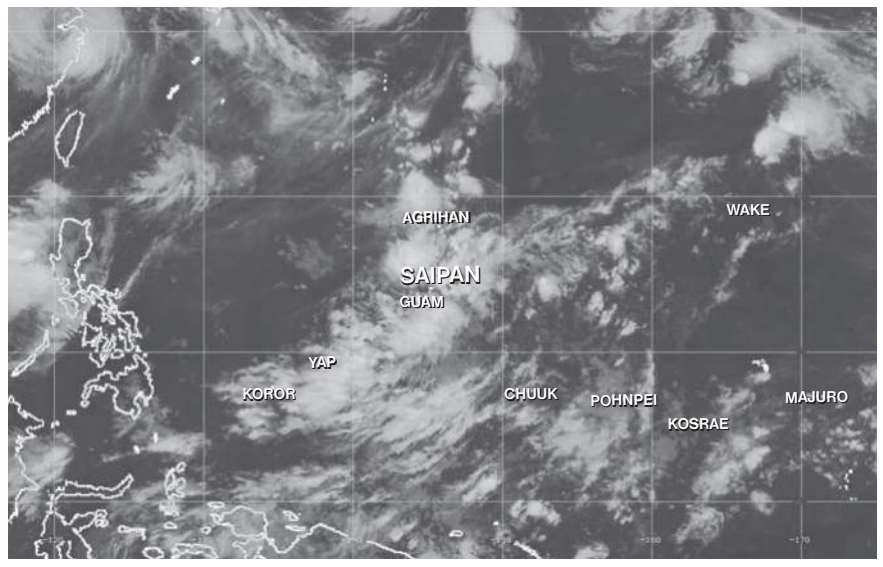
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲87	▼76
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲88	▼76
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85	▼75
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼75
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼51
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼70
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼75
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼75
London	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼58
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲92	▼70
Manila	Thundershowers	▲86	▼79
Melbourne	Showers	▲58	▼46
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼80
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼74
Osaka	Cloudy	▲90	▼75
Paris	Sunny	▲77	▼57
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲87	▼77
Rome	Sunny	▲94	▼72
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼56
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼57
Seoul	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼74
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼75
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲94	▼77

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Converging low-level winds are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across the Marianas, Koror and Yap state within an area bounded by a line from 21N143E to 21N150E to 5N150E to 5N133E to 21N143E. A surface trough extends southeast from tropical storm Kirogi (13W) centered at 32N159E to another circulation centered at 23N180. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found northeast of Wake Island, north of a line from 22N166E to 22N172E. Converging southwest winds well south of tropical storm Kirogi are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms west of Wake Island within 125 miles of a line from 16N155E to 20N161E. A surface trough extends southeast from 7N154E to 1N159E. Scattered showers are south of Pohnpei within 125 miles of a line from 5N154E to 2N159E. Low-level convergence is producing scattered showers across Butaritari and Tarawa between 2N and 6N from 165E to 176E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:45 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
8:01 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
2:14 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
7:34 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:01 AM	6:44 PM
Friday	6:01 AM	6:43 PM
Saturday	6:02 AM	6:43 PM
Sunday	6:02 AM	6:42 PM
Monday	6:02 AM	6:41 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:32 PM	11:47 AM
Friday		12:37 AM
Saturday	12:16 AM	1:26 PM
Sunday	1:02 AM	2:16 PM
Monday	1:51 AM	3:05 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 14, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:30am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
0Z606/120	2:20am	8:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/120	2:50am	8:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via SPN
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL286	7:40pm	12:15am +1	2, 4, 6, 7
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
0Z119/606	9:30am	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z119/606	9:30am	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
0Z704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

US employers post the most jobs in 4 years

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. employers posted the most job openings in four years in June, a positive sign that hiring may pick up.

The Labor Department said Tuesday job openings rose to a seasonally adjusted 3.8 million in June, up from 3.7 million in May. That's the most since July 2008. Layoffs fell.

The data follow Friday's report that said employers in July added the most jobs in five months. A rise in openings could signal better hiring in the coming months. It typically takes one to three months to fill a job.

Even with the increase, hiring is competitive. There were 12.7 million unemployed people in June, or an average of 3.4 unemployed people for each job.

That's down a bit from May and much lower than the nearly 7-to-1 ratio in July 2009, just after the recession ended. In a healthy job market, the ratio is usually around 2 to 1.

Still, employers have been slow to fill jobs. Since the recession ended in 2009, openings have increased 57 percent. Overall hiring is up only 19 percent.

And openings are still below pre-recession levels of nearly 4 million per month.

Employers added 163,000 jobs in July, the department said last week. That followed three months of weak hiring and eased concerns that the economy was stalling.

Yet the economy has generated an average of 150,000 jobs per month this year, about the same pace as 2011. That's not enough to rapidly drive down the unemployment rate.

The unemployment rate ticked up to 8.3 percent in July from 8.2 percent in June.

In June, manufacturing, education and health care, and hotels and restaurants all posted more openings. Retailers and state, local and federal government agencies cut available jobs.

The government's monthly employment report, released last Friday, measures net hiring.

Tuesday's report, known as the Job Openings and Labor Turnover survey, shows the amount of hiring and firing that takes place in the U.S. each month. It provides more details than the monthly jobs report.

For example, layoffs dropped to 1.8 million in June, from nearly 2 million in May. June's total is below pre-recession levels and indicates that companies aren't cutting more jobs, despite sluggish growth.

AP

In this June 13, 2012 file photo, job seekers wait in line at a job fair expo in Anaheim, Calif. U.S. employers posted the most job openings in four years in June, a positive sign that hiring may pick up. The increase comes after employers added the most jobs in five months in July.

Bank scandals tarnish London's reputation

LONDON (AP)—It's been a tense summer in the City of London as one bank after another has faced allegations of massive misbehavior.

Bankers in the British capital, which has for centuries been a center for global business, fear its reputation has been tarnished indelibly and that a heavy-handed regulatory crackdown is looming.

First came U.K. bank Barclays. Its chief executive, Bob Diamond, was forced to step down last month after U.S. and British authorities fined the bank $453 million for manipulating a key market interest rate. Other banks are being investigated for their part in the scandal.

Then there was HSBC, another big London-based bank. It faces fines of up to $1 billion after the U.S. Senate issued a damming report last month alleging it had failed to stop the laundering of Mexican drug money.

Back in May, JPMorgan Chase & Co. disclosed a surprise $2 billion trading loss—later upgraded to $5.8 billion—racked up by its London office in a portfolio designed to hedge against risks the company takes with its own money.

"It seems to be that every big trading disaster happens in London," U.S. Representative Carolyn Maloney told the House Financial Services Committee as it investigated JPMorgan's losses.

And now Standard Chartered, that most predictably profitable of British banks, has been accused by a regulator in New York of laundering Iranian oil money for years.

David Buik, an analyst at brokerage firm BGC Partners, says he's never seen a worse summer in the City.

"Never, not in 50 years in the marketplace. I don't recall anything like it at any time," he said. "Our banking sector is probably under greater stress than in 2008," he said, referring to the year when a global credit crunch caused several banks around the world to collapse.

"We will get out of it, but it is a blow that means regulators will have a greater say in life, which means that economic growth will be slower."

The City's current banking culture began in 1986, when Margaret Thatcher's government introduced the "Big Bang" deregulation that ended the earlier, clubby atmosphere based on individual relationships. That brought investment banking to Britain, with its culture of risk-taking, big bonuses and a focus on short-term returns.

Since the financial crisis broke out in 2008, that culture has come under attack for costing taxpayers billions in bank bailouts and for resisting reform of executives' huge bonus schemes.

US consumers cut back on credit card use in June

WASHINGTON (AP)—Americans cut back on credit card use in June, a sign that high unemployment and slow growth have made some more cautious about spending.

Still, total consumer borrowing increased as many kept taking out loans to buy cars and attend school.

Consumer borrowing rose by $6.5 billion in June from May to total $2.58 trillion, the Federal Reserve said Tuesday. That's just below the all-time high reached in July 2008.

Auto and student loans rose by $10.2 billion to $1.71 trillion in June.

Credit card debt fell $3.7 billion to $865 billion. That's only 1.6 percent above the post-recession low reached in April 2011.

Americans have been relying less on credit cards since the 2008 financial crisis and Great Recession.

At the same time, student loan debt has steadily increased. It has risen 54 percent since mid-2008 to total $902 billion as of March this year, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Student loans now accounts for roughly 35 percent of all consumer debt, up from less than a quarter four years ago. That makes it the biggest source of consumer debt outside of mortgages.

The increase partly reflects high unemployment, which has led many Americans to seek better education and skills in a more competitive labor market.

"We are probably witnessing a shift in consumers' attitudes towards debt," said Paul Edelstein, an economist at IHS Global Insight. "Households may be willing to take on debt to pay for cars and education... . But other forms of consumption will come increasingly from current incomes."

Overall, Americans have been steadily paring debt since the financial crisis. Household debt, including mortgages and home equity lines of credit, has declined for 16 straight quarters to $12.9 trillion in March, according to the Fed. That's down from $13.8 trillion in March 2008.

Some of that debt has been removed by defaults, such as foreclosures.

A Commerce Department report last week showed that consumers are more frugal. They spent no more in June than they did in May, while their incomes rose at the fastest pace in three months.

The flat pace of spending was likely because hiring has been weak and confidence low. Employers added 163,000 jobs in July, the most in five months. But hiring for most of this year hasn't been enough to lower the unemployment rate. The rate ticked up to 8.3 percent in July from 8.2 percent in June.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Apple to ditch iPhone YouTube app

Apple says the next version of its software for the iPhone and iPad won't come with a pre-installed YouTube application. Users will be able to play YouTube videos in the Web browser, says Apple spokeswoman Trudy Muller. Google Inc., which owns YouTube, is also working on a downloadable app, she says. Muller says Apple Inc.'s license to include the YouTube app has expired, but did not explain why it hasn't been extended. Google says it's working with Apple to ensure a quality YouTube experience. Google has its own operating system for smartphones that compete with the iPhone. Apple has sued companies that use it, saying it copies features from the iPhone. In June, Apple said the next version of its operating system will replace Google Maps with an Apple app.

Oil prices hover above $93 a barrel in Asia

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil hovered above $93 a barrel Wednesday in Asia as concerns about supply disruptions supported a two-month, 21 percent rally. Benchmark crude was down 32 cents to $93.35 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose $1.47 on Tuesday to settle at $93.67 in New York. In London, Brent crude was down 38 cents at $111.62 on the ICE Futures exchange.

Residents near refinery fire heckle Chevron execs

RICHMOND, Calif. (AP)—A major fire at one of the country's biggest oil refineries that sent hundreds of people to hospitals with complaints of breathing problems will push gas prices above $4 a gallon on the West Coast, analysts said Tuesday. The fire, which sent plumes of black smoke over the San Francisco Bay area, erupted Monday evening in the massive Chevron refinery about 10 miles northeast of San Francisco. It was out early Tuesday. The West Coast is particularly vulnerable to spikes in gasoline prices because it's not well-connected to the refineries along the Gulf Coast, where most of the country's refining capacity is located, analysts say.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
13,168.60	1,401.35	3,015.86
+51.09	+7.12	+25.95
0.39%	0.51%	0.87%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9482	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7548	Philippine Peso	41.758
British Pound	0.6406	Indian Rupee	55.16	Singapore Dollar	1.2436
Canadian Dollar	0.9973	Indonesian Rupiah	9480.75	South Korean Won	1128.3
Chinese Yuan	6.3663	Japanese Yen	78.4255	Swiss Franc	0.9696
Euro	0.807	Malaysian Ringgit	3.1025	Taiwan Dollar	29.9615
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2302	Thailand Baht	31.51

Nation

Loughner pleads guilty to Ariz. shooting

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—Jared Lee Loughner agreed Tuesday to spend the rest of his life in prison, accepting that he went on a deadly shooting rampage at an Arizona political gathering and avoiding the prospect of a trial that might have brought him the death penalty.

His plea came after a federal judge found that months of psychiatric treatment made Loughner able to understand charges that he killed six people and wounded 13 others, including his intended target, then-Rep. Gabrielle Giffords.

Loughner appeared relaxed and focused throughout the two-hour hearing, much of it devoted to a court-appointed psychologist's account of his normal childhood, his teenage depression, his descent into schizophrenia as a young adult and his gradual recovery in prison to the point that she felt he was competent to face charges.

The psychologist and judge did most of the talking, as Loughner looked at them intently and leaned slightly forward with no expression, his arms crossed over his chest.

AP

Attorney Judy Clark, left, and defendant Jared Loughner sit before the judge in federal court Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2012 in Tucson, Ariz. as shown in this artists' rendering.

He appeared to show emotion only once—smiling and nodding when the psychologist, Christina Pietz, reported that he formed a special bond with one of the guards at the Springfield, Mo., prison where he has been held.

U.S. District Judge Larry Burns noted Loughner's reaction to the prison guard comment when explaining his decision to declare him competent. He said Loughner was "tracking" the day's proceedings well and appeared to be assisting his attorneys in his defense, a break from the past.

"He's a different person in his appearance and his affect than the first time I laid eyes on him," Burns said.

During the hearing, Loughner didn't exchange words with his attorneys or glance around the courtroom, which was packed with victims. His parents, who observed from a back row, sobbed and embraced after he walked out looking frail on his feet and gazing straight ahead.

Loughner pleaded guilty to 19 counts, including attempted assassination of a member of Congress, murder and attempted murder of federal employees, and causing death and injury at a federally provided activity. As part of the agreement, the federal government dropped 30 other counts.

"I plead guilty," Loughner said repeatedly in a baritone voice as Burns listed each count.

His hair closely cropped, Loughner was not the smiling, bald-headed suspect captured in a mug shot soon after the January 2011 shooting. His demeanor was a complete turnaround from a May 2011 courtroom outburst that prompted Burns to declare him incompetent.

The prosecution and defense seemed eager to seal the agreement, a departure from previous marathon hearings. Judy Clarke, Loughner's lead attorney, gently pointed Loughner through a copy of the plea agreement on the table in front of him as the judge went through it. She declined to ask the psychologist any questions.

The plea agreement calls for a sentence of seven consecutive life terms followed by 140 years in prison, according to federal officials. Loughner, who will be sentenced Nov. 15, is ineligible for parole.

John Leonardo, the U.S. attorney for Arizona, called the agreement a "just and appropriate resolution."

"I hope that today's resolution of this case will help the victims, their families, and the entire Tucson community take another step forward in the process of healing and recovering from this sad and tragic event," he said.

The outcome was welcomed by some victims, including Giffords herself, as a way to move on.

"The pain and loss caused by the events of Jan. 8, 2011, are incalculable," Giffords said in a joint statement with her husband, Mark Kelly. "Avoiding a trial will allow us—and we hope the whole Southern Arizona community - to continue with our recovery."

Ron Barber, a former Giffords staffer who was wounded in the attack and later won election to her seat after she stepped down, said he hoped the plea will help the victims and their families "move forward and continue our healing process."

Romney says Obama favors 'culture of dependency'

ELK GROVE VILLAGE, Ill. (AP)—Republican Mitt Romney accused President Barack Obama on Tuesday of ditching a long-standing work requirement for welfare recipients, accusing him of fostering a "culture of dependency" and backing up the charge with a new television commercial.

White House press secretary Jay Carney said the allegations were "blatantly dishonest ... hypocrisy knows no bounds." He added that Romney, while serving as Massachusetts governor, had once petitioned the White House to loosen employment rules for those on welfare.

Former President Bill Clinton joined the fray, saying in a statement Tuesday night that the TV ad's assertion was "not true" and that the ad was misleading.

Romney made his accusation in a relatively rare occurrence in the race for the White House - an appearance before voters outside the small group of battleground states likely to settle the Nov. 6 election.

Romney

Illinois and its 20 electoral votes are politically safe territory for Obama in the fall. Romney was there for a fundraiser as well as a stop at a manufacturing company, part of the intense competition between the two candidates to stockpile cash for the stretch run to Election Day.

Romney picked up more than $2 million during his swing through Chicago, and another fundraising evening in West Des Moines, Iowa, gave him at least another $1.8 million.

The president was speaking at two private events, one of them a fundraiser, at a hotel a few blocks from the White House. And after being outraised by Romney in recent months, his campaign announced a fundraising "shoot-around" and dinner in New York on Aug. 22 featuring several professional basketball stars.

In a race as close as this one, the taunts were getting personal.

Romney, interviewed on Fox News, said Obama was "saying things that are not accurate" when it comes to taxes. He referred to a crack the president made on Monday night as "Obama-loney," rhyming it with baloney.

At a fundraiser, Obama called Romney's tax plan Robin Hood in reverse—"Romney Hood"—and repeated his accusation that it would mean tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans while forcing the middle class to pay the IRS as much as $2,000 more a year.

The president wants to extend tax breaks due to expire at all income levels, except above $200,000 for individuals and $250,000 for a couple. He has made his proposal central to a pitch to middle- and working-class voters as he seeks a second term with unemployment at 8.3 percent.

Romney wants to keep the tax cuts in place at all income levels, and has proposed an additional 20 percent reduction in rates.

Hate music is part of white supremacist circles

MILWAUKEE (AP)—When they aren't ranting in Internet forums, many of the nation's white supremacists seek a louder outlet for their extreme views: thunderous, thrashing heavy metal or punk music with lyrics that call for a race war.

Wade Michael Page, the gunman who killed six people at a Sikh temple in Wisconsin before being killed by police, was deeply involved in the "hate rock" scene—a shadowy world of hundreds of performers in the U.S. and Europe, most of them playing metal or hardcore punk. Some also play country, folk and other genres.

Largely unknown to most Americans, this musical subculture is an integral part of neo-Nazi circles, offering a way for like-minded followers to connect with each other and socialize, recruit new members and raise money for their cause.

"It really was a good political weapon for the agenda," said Jason Stevens, who once fronted a white-power band called Intimidation One in Portland, Ore.

Page once played guitar and bass with Intimidation One, as well as in bands called Definite Hate and End Apathy.

Stevens, who turned his back on white supremacy in 2004 and now owns a small business, said he was shocked to hear that a friend he remembered as "mellow and quiet" had committed such a heinous crime.

The two last talked on the phone in 2010, and Stevens said Page was "his usual laid-back self." At the time, Stevens said, he had a job at a Colorado metalworking shop.

Stevens said money raised by his band's tours and record sales was often funneled to legal defense funds for white supremacists charged with federal crimes, including Randy Weaver, whose 1992 standoff with federal agents in Ruby Ridge, Idaho, left a U.S. marshal and two Weaver family members dead.

The music "brings in more revenue than virtually anything else," said Brian Levin, a criminal justice professor at California State University at San Bernardino, who has consulted for the FBI and other federal agencies on white supremacists.

The National Alliance, a prominent white-power organization, sometimes cleared $1 million a year in profit from music, books and magazines, video games and other supremacy products, Levin said.

ACROSS THE NATION

FAA suspends operation that led to near-collision

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Aviation Administration will bar airports nationwide from using a traffic-reversing operation that led to a close call last week at an airport near the nation's capital. No commercial airports will be able to use the maneuver, in which controllers direct some planes to take off and land from the opposite of the usual direction, until a standardized procedure can be put in place, aviation officials said. There is no national standard for the maneuver, although airports follow their own procedures. The FAA expects to have new procedures in place within a month, said FAA Chief Operating Officer J. David Grizzle. In the meantime, airports can only use the maneuver - known as "opposite-direction operations"—in emergencies.

Ark. police investigate fatal patrol car shooting

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—Police in Arkansas are investigating whether a man fatally shot himself in the head as he sat in the backseat of a patrol car with his hands cuffed behind his back. Chavis Carter, 21, died after Jonesboro police stopped a truck in which he was riding July 28 and learned he had an outstanding arrest warrant related to a drug charge. Carter was searched twice, handcuffed and put into the back of the patrol car, according to a police report. Officers a short time later saw Carter slumped over in the backseat and covered in blood, according to the report, which concluded he had managed to conceal a handgun with which he shot himself. He later died at a hospital, and the report listed his death as a suicide.

A bans skateboard 'bombing' after 2 deaths

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Los Angeles officials on Tuesday banned skateboard "bombing—in which skaters zoom down steep hills at up to 40 mph—in response to two teen deaths. The measure will go to Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa for approval, and would take effect 30 days later if he signs it, according to the Daily Breeze. Councilman Joe Buscaino introduced the measure after two deaths in his district. In November, Michael Borojevich, 14, died 11 days after a sustaining a skateboarding injury and in January, Caleb Daniel Simpson, 15, was killed while skating down a hill.

Asia

Rains ease after flooding kills 11 in PH

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Widespread flooding that killed at least 11 people, battered a million others and paralyzed the Philippine capital began to ease Wednesday as cleanup and rescue efforts focused on a large number of distressed residents, some still marooned on their roofs.

Government forecasters said the monsoon rains that overflowed major dams and rivers in Manila and surrounding provinces would gradually abate and lead to sunny weather on Thursday after 12 days of relentless downpours.

The deluge was the worst since 2009, when hundreds died in rampaging flash floods.

"We're still on a rescue mode," said Benito Ramos, who heads the government's main disaster-response agency. "Floods are receding in many areas but people are still trapped on their roofs."

Ramos said the massive flooding turned half of Manila into "a water world" on Monday evening and into Tuesday. Eleven died, including nine in a landslide in Quezon City, a Manila suburb, while 1.2 million people were affected. They included 783,000 who fled from their inundated homes in two days of intense rains and flooding that started late Sunday.

A resident carries a monitor along a flooded road in Marikina City, east of Manila, Philippines, Wednesday Aug. 8, 2012. AP

Rescue efforts shifted into high gear Wednesday, with more than 130 emergency crews from two provinces reaching the capital city of 12 million people to help their overwhelmed teams, including police and army troops.

Manila was drenched with more than half of a month's worth of rain in just 24 hours. A storm off eastern China that intensified the southwest monsoon moved away and the weather started improving Wednesday, according to government forecaster Glaiza Escullar.

"We may see the sun tomorrow," Escullar said.

TV footage showed rescuers dangling on ropes to bring children and other residents to safety from flooded houses across the city. Many residents trapped in their homes called radio and TV stations desperately asking for help.

"We need to be rescued," Josephine Cruz told DZMM radio as water rose around her house in Quezon City, saying she was trapped in her two-story house with 11 other people, including her 83-year-old mother. "We can't get out because the floodwaters are now higher than people."

ABC-CBN TV network reported receiving frantic calls from people whose relatives were trapped in the deluge, many without food since Tuesday morning. They included a pregnant woman with a baby who wanted to be rescued from a roof and about 55 people who scrambled to the third floor of a Quezon City house as water rose below them.

Vehicles and even heavy trucks struggled to navigate water-clogged roads, where hundreds of thousands of commuters were stranded. Many cars were stuck in the muddy waters.

The government suspended work and classes Tuesday but offices opened Wednesday. Traffic was still light as workers began cleaning roads from debris, heaps and trash and fallen trees.

In 2009, massive flooding spawned by a typhoon devastated Manila and surrounding areas, killing hundreds. The state weather bureau said that the current flooding was not as severe.

Sikh shooting victim leaves grieving Indian family

NEW DELHI (AP)—For 16 years, Lokinder Kaur waited patiently for the day her husband would be reunited with her and their children. That dream died with him in a Sikh temple in Wisconsin.

Ranjit Singh, one of six killed in a shooting attack at the temple, never came home even once in all those years, working at a grocery store during the week and volunteering at the Sikh gurdwara on weekends. He promised his family he was doing what had to be done to get a green card so they could come join him.

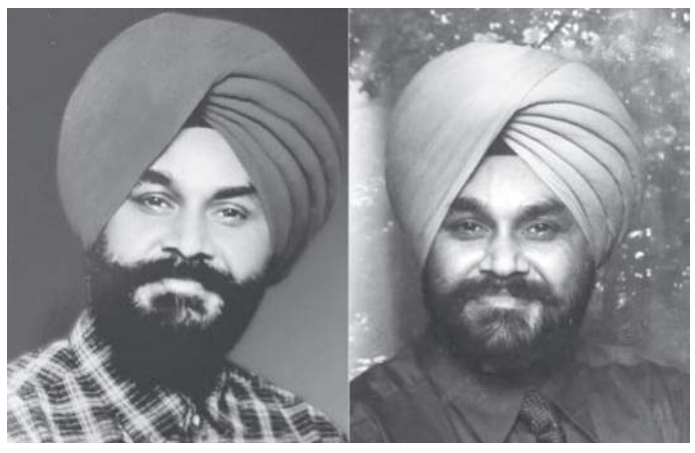
He called every few days, even as the months dragged into years. Kaur said she spoke to Singh just the day before a gunman entered the temple in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, and shot worshippers as they prepared for services on Sunday.

Singh sang devotional songs at the temple and took care of worshipers, serving them meals. His brother, who died in the attack as well, often sang with him.

All Kaur was left with is a recent photograph of Singh, dressed sharply in a crisp shirt and tie and smiling confidently into the camera.

"My children keep asking me, 'What did papa look like?" she said, sobbing at her faded memory of her husband's face. "I have no answers."

When Singh first left for the United States his son was just 7 months old, his daughters 4 and 6. He had a visa for just six months.



AP

In this undated combo photo composed of two images provided by the family, Indian Ranjit Singh, right, and Sita Singh who were killed in the shooting attack at a Sikh temple in Wisconsin are seen. The Indian born brothers were both killed in the shooting attack Sunday.

"My husband had only one dream. To see his children settled abroad," Kaur said as she sat surrounded by grieving family and friends in her modest two-story home in a Delhi neighborhood.

To chase that dream, he kept renewing his visa, finally applying for a green card a few years ago.

"Every six months, he would tell me he would be home soon."

His daughters got married while he was away. His son grew up knowing him only as the voice on the phone, the image in the photographs.

"I just don't understand what happened over there. Why did they die," Kaur asked, sitting on the floor—a tradition in an Indian house of mourning—but leaning against a sofa, exhausted by her grief.

According to police, the gunman was a failed soldier who played in white supremacist heavy metal bands, but his motive remained a mystery.

With their turbans and beards, Sikhs are often mistaken for Muslims or Arabs, and have been targeted in post-Sept. 11 bias attacks in the U.S. The New York-based Sikh Coalition reported more than 700 incidents in the U.S. since 2001.

A short distance away from Lokinder's home, similar scenes of mourning cloud the home of her slain brother-in-law Sita Singh, who traveled back and forth routinely from India to the United States.

East China's Zhejiang battered by Typhoon Haikui

BEIJING (AP)—Typhoon Haikui slammed into eastern China's Zhejiang province early Wednesday, packing winds up to 150 kilometers (90 miles) per hour and triggering flooding.

More than 1.8 million people were evacuated ahead of the storm from parts of heavily populated Shanghai and neighboring Zhejiang, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. Ships had also been ordered to port in preparation for Haikui, the third typhoon to hit China in less than a week.

The storm landed in Zhejiang's Hepu township in Xiangshan county before dawn Wednesday, triggering flooding that left at least 130 people stranded in rural areas, Xinhua said. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

The China Meteorological Administration had issued a red alert for Typhoon Haikui, the highest so far this year, and said it was expected to bring heavy rains and strong winds for 48 hours.

Shanghai, which has 23 million people and is the country's financial hub, banned all outdoor group activities, closed all city parks and suspended summer classes. It also stopped all outdoor construction.

The city relocated 252,000 residents and Zhejiang evacuated more than 1.5 million people, Xinhua said. It said earlier that more than 30,000 ships had been called back to shelter in ports.

China is still recovering from typhoons Damrey and Saola, which hit over the weekend. The flooding and landslides from those storms killed 23 people and left nine missing, Xinhua said Tuesday.

Saola battered Taiwan and the Philippines earlier and was blamed for about 60 deaths in the two countries.

ASIA BRIEFS

Pakistan court: PM must appear in corruption case

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan's supreme court is demanding the country's prime minister appear before it to explain why he has not taken action they've requested looking into corruption allegations against the president. The head of a five-judge panel said Wednesday that Prime Minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf must appear August 27. The announcement is part of a long-running battle between the president and prime minister and Pakistan's highest court. The court wants the prime minster to write a letter to Swiss authorities asking them to reopen an old corruption case against President Asif Ali Zardari. The government maintains that Zardari has immunity from prosecution and so far has resisted writing the letter. The previous prime minister lost his job in June in a similar showdown with the court after refusing to write the letter.

Tibetan woman dies after setting herself on fire

BEIJING (AP)—A Tibetan rights group says a 26-year-old woman has died after setting herself on fire in west-central China's Gansu province. London-based Free Tibet said Dolkar Kyi set fire to herself Tuesday at Tso Monastery in Tso city in an area that is of religious significance to Tibetan monks. The incident followed a self-immolation by a Tibetan man on Monday in southwestern China's Sichuan province. Free Tibet identified him as Lobsang Tsultrim, a 21-year-old monk from Kirti Monastery. He was reported to be alive and was taken away by police. They are the latest of more than 40 self-immolations by Tibetans. Supporters say they are protesting Beijing's heavy-handed rule in Tibetan regions. China has blamed the Dalai Lama for inciting the immolations, which the exiled spiritual leader denies.

World

Syria's Assad returns to public eye with ally Iran

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian President Bashar Assad made his first appearance on state TV in nearly three weeks Tuesday in a show of solidarity with a senior Iranian envoy, even as the U.S. urged stepped up international planning for the regime's collapse.

The visit to Damascus by the highest-ranking Iranian official since the uprising began coincided with a warning by an increasingly agitated Tehran that it holds the U.S. responsible for the fate of 48 Iranians seized by Syrian rebels.

Appearing together on state TV, Assad and Iran's Saeed Jalili vowed to defeat the rebels and their backers, while U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton predicted Assad's regime was quickly unraveling, with high-level defections such as his prime minister's switch to the rebel side.

Jalili's visit highlighted Assad's deepening reliance on a shrinking list of allies, led by Tehran. Assad—seen on state TV for the first time since a July 18 bombing in Damascus killed four of his top security officials—used Jalili's visit to portray a sense of command and vowed to fight his opponents "relentlessly."

Jalili, the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, promised Iran would stand by Syria against its international "enemies"—a clear reference to the rebels' Western backers and others such as Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

While there were no public pledges of greater military assistance to Assad, the mission appeared to reflect Iran's efforts to reassure Syria of its backing and ease speculation that Tehran also could be making contingencies for Assad's possible fall.

On a visit to South Africa, Clinton described Assad's regime as splintering from Monday's defection of Syria's prime minister, Riad Hijab, and other military and political figures breaking away in recent months. She urged international leaders to begin work on a "good transition plan" to try to keep Syria from collapsing into more chaos after Assad.

"I am not going to put a timeline on it. I can't possibly predict it, but I know it's going to happen as do most observers around the world," Clinton told reporters.

A post-Assad Syria presents a host of worrisome scenarios, including a bloody cycle of revenge and power grabs by the country's patchwork of factions, including the Sunni-led rebels and Assad's minority Alawites, an offshoot of Shiite Islam allied with Shiite Iran.

Despite a ferocious government crackdown, the Syrian rebels have grown more confident and are using increasingly bolder tactics. They seized the 48 Iranians in a bold daylight attack near Damascus on Saturday, claiming they were members of Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guards sent on a "reconnaissance mission" to assist in Assad's crackdown.

Iran says the Iranians, who were captured when their bus was commandeered near the airport, were pilgrims visiting a Shiite shrine on the outskirts of Damascus.

AP

In this photo released by the Syrian official news agency SANA, Iran's Supreme National Security Council, Saeed Jalili, meets with Syrian President Bashar Assad in Damascus, Syria, Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2012.

Hurricane Ernesto starts across Mexico's Yucatan

CHETUMAL, Mexico (AP)—Hurricane Ernesto spun inland over Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula early Wednesday while hundreds of fishermen who fled low-lying villages for shelters and tourists evacuated from resorts to inland hotels hunkered down for a stormy night.

Ernesto had sustained winds of 85 mph (140 kph) when it swept over the shore town of Mahuahal shortly before midnight Tuesday and moved into a sparsely populated coastal region, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said. The storm was moving west at 15 mph (24 kph) and was expected to weaken during the night.

There were no early reports of damage, but it might be morning before officials could assess whether Ernesto's rain and wind caused problems.

Chetumal, the capital of Quintana Roo state, was the closest city and officials moved more than 1,300 tourists there from resorts in Mahuahal, Balacar and other coastal spots that were expected to see heavier rain and wind.

In the city of Tulum to the north, some 6,000 tourists sheltered in hotels away from the beach, and authorities said the buildings were strong enough to qualify as storm shelters.

Luana Antonicelli, a 23-year-old tourist from Melbourne, Australia, traveling with her 20-year-old brother, said they left their beachfront cabana surrounded by tropical jungle and decided to spend the night at the Hotel Tulum, a 20-room, one-story building about two miles (three kilometers) inland.

"The people at our hotel told us to come into town because it's too dangerous to stay there," Antonicelli said.

She said most people at the Hotel Tulum were hunkering down inside their rooms even though it was only raining lightly Tuesday night. Hotel workers were distributing candles but the hotel still had electricity.

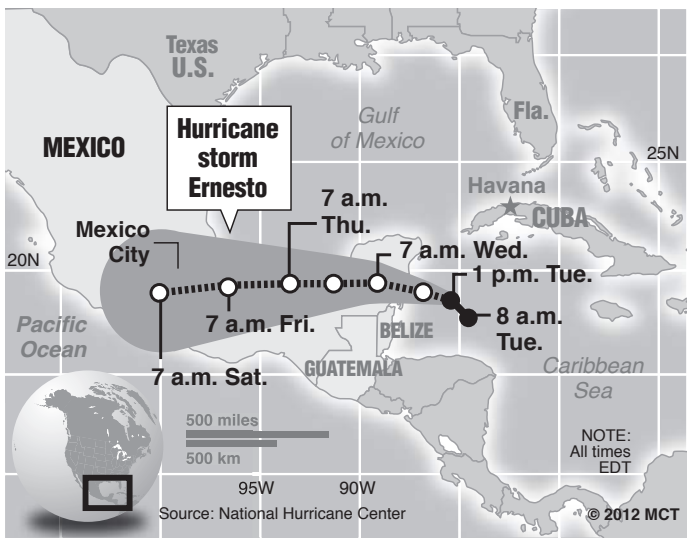
"It's a bit annoying because I want to be on the beach, but these things happen," Antonicelli said, adding that she and her brother decided to stay outdoors as much as possible. "I see it as an adventure."

Authorities also prepared two kindergartens in Tulum as shelters for up to 220 people, but only 20 people had showed up by Tuesday afternoon at one.

Cruz Garcia, a tourist guide, came to the shelter with his wife from Punta Allen, a low-lying coastal settlement.

"To be over there is a risk because the tide rises and there could be a disaster," Garcia said, adding that he twice went through strong hurricanes while living in the neighboring state of Campeche.

Soldiers and police evacuated all residents of Punta Allen, and authorities were preparing for the evacuation of people from other low-lying coastal settlements, said Luis Gamboa of Quintana Roo's Civil Protection office.



Cuba's aging population will test economic reform

HAVANA (AP)—The scene at Havana's Victor Hugo Park is unfortunately typical, with a handful of boys kicking a soccer ball through trees while dozens of gray-haired seniors bend and stretch to the urgings of a government-employed trainer.

So few children, so many elderly. It's a central dilemma for a nation whose population is the oldest in Latin America, and getting older.

The labor force soon will be shrinking as health costs soar, just when President Raul Castro's government is struggling to implement reforms that aim to resuscitate an economy long on life support.

"We must be perfectly clear that the aging of the populace no longer has a solution," Castro's economic czar, Marino Murillo, told lawmakers in an alarmed tone last month. "It is going to happen, and that cannot be changed in the short term. ... Society must prepare itself."

The aging of Cuba's population has its roots in some of the core achievements of Fidel Castro's revolution, including a universal health care system that has increased life expectancy from 69 years during the 1960s to 78 today, comparable with the United States.

Abortions are free and it is estimated that half of Cuban pregnancies are terminated. High university graduation rates, generally associated worldwide with low fertility numbers, have Cuban women averaging 1.5 children, below the rate of replacement.

Cuba's National Office of Statistics says about 2 million of the island's 11 million inhabitants, or 17 percent, were over 60 years old last year. That's already high compared to Latin America as a whole, where the rate is somewhere north of 9 percent, extrapolating from U.N. figures from 2000.

That U.N. study shows Cuba's population is aging even faster than that of China, which has forbidden couples to have more than one child. Cuba's rate would be typical in a wealthy European nation. But Cuba lacks the wealth to cope with it.

The trend is accelerating, with the number of seniors projected to nearly double to 3.6 million, or a third of the population, by 2035. During the same period, working-age Cubans are expected to decline from 65 percent to 52 percent.

The future may look a lot like Emelia Moreno. Still vigorous at 75 years old, she lives alone in a small apartment in Central Havana and spends much of her time at a neighborhood senior center that provides 1,000 retirees with medical attention, meals and social activities such as singing and dance classes.

"Cuba is fighting so that people of a certain age don't feel too bad," she said.

But her only child left for the U.S. a decade ago, and she knows that one day she'll be completely dependent on the government because she has no family to take care of her when she cannot.

WORLD BRIEFS

Egypt military fires missiles on Sinai militants

EL-ARISH, Egypt (AP)—Egyptian security officials and residents say Egyptian military attack helicopters have fired missiles on suspected Islamic militants in Sinai after an attack on security checkpoints. Security officials say it is the first time that the army has fired missiles in Sinai since Egypt's 1973 war with Israel, which was an attempt to recapture the Sinai Peninsula. Security officials tell The Associated Press that they launched the missile attack just hours after three security checkpoints were attacked by suspected Islamic militants in North Sinai's main city of El-Arish, some 50 kilometers (31 miles) from the Gaza-Israel border. Officials say six people were wounded in the attacks—among them a military officer, two soldiers, two policemen and a civilian whose condition is critical.

Rare snowfall stuns much of South Africa

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—People slowly came outside despite the cold wind Tuesday across South Africa, pointed their mobile phone cameras to the sky and opened their mouths to taste a rare snowfall that fell on much of the country. The snow began Tuesday morning, part of an extreme cold snap now biting into a nation still in its winter months. By mid-afternoon, officials recorded snowfall across most of South Africa. However, forecasters acknowledged snow remains so unusual that they typically aren't prepared to provide details about snowfall in the nation. The snow closed some roads and at least one high-altitude pass. The snowfall also closed several border posts in the country. As the snow fell, workers at offices in Johannesburg rushed outside. Some twirled and danced as the flakes fell. One man rushed to the top of a snow-covered hill and slid down, using a cardboard box as an improvised toboggan. Despite the cold and the snow, beggars who line traffic lights in the city continued to ask passing motorists for cash.

Focus

In this photo taken July 10, 2012, pedestrians cross K Street and Connecticut Ave. NW near the Farragut North Metro Entrance in downtown Washington. AP

Distracted pedestrians stumble into danger

WASHINGTON (AP)—A young man talking on a cellphone meanders along the edge of a lonely train platform at night. Suddenly he stumbles, loses his balance and pitches over the side, landing head first on the tracks.

Fortunately there were no trains approaching the Philadelphia-area station at that moment, because it took the man several minutes to recover enough to climb out of danger. But the incident, captured last year by a security camera and provided to The Associated Press, underscores the risks of what government officials and safety experts say is a growing problem: distracted walking.

On city streets, in suburban parking lots and in shopping centers, there is usually someone strolling while talking on a phone, texting with his head down, listening to music, or playing a video game. The problem isn't as widely discussed as distracted driving, but the danger is real.

Reports of injuries to distracted walkers treated at hospital emergency rooms have more than quadrupled in the past seven years and are almost certainly underreported. There has been a spike in pedestrians killed and injured in traffic accidents, but there is no reliable data on how many were distracted by electronics.

"We are where we were with cellphone use in cars 10 years or so ago. We knew it was a problem, but we didn't have the data," said Jonathan Akins, deputy executive director of the Governors Highway Safety Association, which represents state highway safety offices.

State and local officials are struggling to figure out how to respond, and in some cases asking how far government should go in trying to protect people from themselves.

In Delaware, highway safety officials opted for a public education campaign, placing decals on crosswalks and sidewalks at busy intersections urging pedestrians to "Look up. Drivers aren't always looking out for you."

Philadelphia officials are drafting a safety campaign that will be aimed in part at pedestrians who are looking at their devices instead of where they're going. "One of the messages will certainly be `pick your head up'—I want to say `nitwit,' but I probably shouldn't call them names," said Rina Cutler, deputy mayor for transportation and public utilities.

As an April Fool's Day joke with a serious message, Philadelphia officials taped off an "e-lane" for distracted pedestrians on a sidewalk outside downtown office buildings.

Some didn't get that it was a joke.

"The sad part is we had people who, once they realized we were going to take the e-lane away, got mad because they thought it was really helpful to not have people get in their way while they were walking and texting," Cutler said.

When the Utah Transit Authority adopted an ordinance barring pedestrians from using cellphones, headphones or other distracting electronic devices while crossing the tracks of its light rail system on the streets of Salt Lake City, subject to a $50 fine, the Legislature refused to make it a statewide law.

"Look, I get distracted all the time," bristled Utah State Rep. Craig Frank, a Republican who opposed the proposal. "I have a smartphone, too. Walking on sidewalks, in stores and malls, and maybe in a crosswalk sometimes I'm using my cellphone. But I try to stay connected to my environment. I never thought the government needed to cite me for using my cellphone in a reasonable manner."

Distracted walking bills in the Arkansas, Illinois and New York legislatures also went nowhere.

"It sounds very ridiculous," said Tia Little, a pedestrian in downtown Washington. "I mean, it's our phone. We should be able to use it and walk and talk if we choose to, walk and text or whatever."

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority, which provided the video of the man who fell onto the train tracks, has received reports from bus drivers and train engineers who say they nearly hit pedestrians who didn't appear to hear them sound their horns because they were distracted by their electronic devices, said Jim Fox, the agency's director of system safety and risk management.

He said there have been several cases of people hit and killed by the authority's trains in which it appears they were wearing headphones or using cellphones while trespassing on tracks.

A University of Maryland study found 116 cases over six years in which pedestrians were killed or seriously injured while wearing headphones. In two-thirds of the cases the victims were men under age 30. Half the cases involved trains. In a third of the incidents, a warning horn was sounded just before the accident.

"With the smartphone technology these days and everything at your fingertips, it's almost getting to be an obsession or a compulsion with people," Fox said. "You see it in airports or train stations or malls—if there's any kind of downtime, they're jumping right to that phone."

In this photo taken July 10, 2012, pedestrians cross K Street and Connecticut Ave. NW near the Farragut North Metro Entrance in downtown Washington. AP

About 1,152 people were treated in hospital emergency rooms in the U.S. last year for injuries suffered while walking and using a cellphone or some other electronic device, according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, which receives annual data from 100 emergency rooms and extrapolates the information into a national estimate. But that's likely an underestimate because patients may not mention they were using a cellphone or other device at the time at the time they were injured, or the doctor or nurse may neglect to include the information in their report, said Tom Schroeder, director of the commission's data systems.

The cases include a 24-year-old woman who walked into a telephone pole while texting; a 28-year-old man who was walking along a road when he fell into a ditch while talking on a cellphone; a 12-year-old boy who was looking at a video game when he was clipped by a pickup truck as he crossed the street; and a 53-year-old woman who fell off a curb while texting and lacerated her face.

One 67-year-old man walking along the side of a road was hit a by a bicyclist who was talking on a cellphone as he rode. The pedestrian injured a knee.

Though overall traffic deaths were lower in 2010 than the year before, pedestrian fatalities rose by 4.2 percent and injuries by 19 percent, according to the latest data available from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. It's not clear how many of the pedestrian deaths and injuries involved cellphones and other electronics because police often don't collect that information.

Even without better data, the Internet yields a wealth of anecdotal evidence of the power of electronics to distract pedestrians.

A woman texting while she walked through in a suburban Philadelphia shopping mall this year tumbled into a large fountain directly in front of her. Security camera video of the incident went viral, generating millions of hits.

A man texting a message to his boss nearly strolled into the path of a black bear that had wandered into a suburban Los Angeles neighborhood. He was only a few feet away when he looked up, saw the bear, and ran. A KTLA news helicopter tracking the bear recorded the April incident.

Researchers say they're not surprised that multi-tasking pedestrians run into trouble.

Psychological studies that show most people can't focus on two things at once. Rather, their attention shifts rapidly back and forth between tasks, and performance suffers. But like a lot of drivers who use cellphones behind the wheel, pedestrians often think they're in control and that it's all the other fools on their phones who aren't watching what they're doing.

"I see students as soon as they break from a class, they have their cellphones out and they're texting to one another. They're walking through the door and bumping into one another," said Jack Nasar, an Ohio State University professor and expert on environmental psychology. "People think they can do it, that they are somehow better."

A study Nasar conducted at intersections on campus found that people talking on cellphones were significantly more likely to walk in front of cars than pedestrians not using phones. Nasar found that 256 people in 2005 were treated at emergency rooms for injuries suffered while walking and using a cellphone or another electronic device.

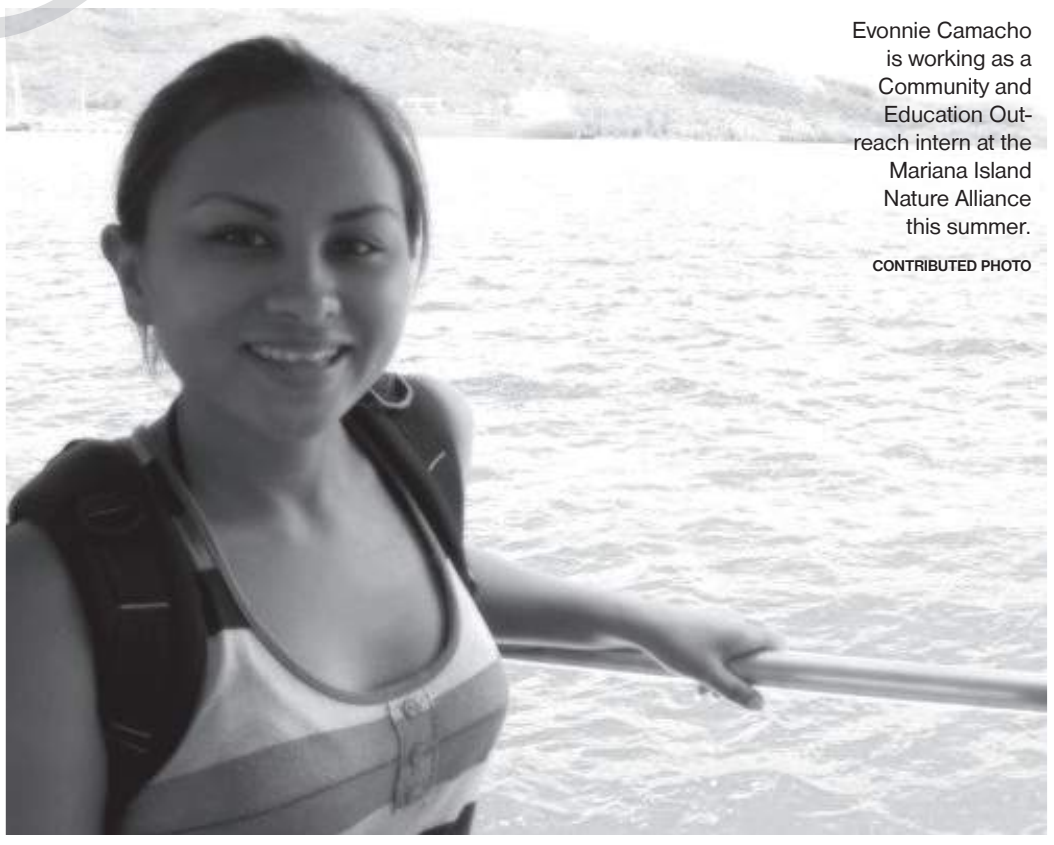
A study by researchers at Stony Brook University in New York compared the performance of people asked to walk across a room to a target—a piece of paper taped to the floor—without distractions and then again next day while talking on a cellphone or texting. The group that talked on the cellphone walked slightly slower and veered off course a bit more than previously, but the texting group walked slower, veered off course 61 percent more and overshot the target 13 percent more.

"People really need to be aware that they are impacting their safety by texting or talking on the cellphone" while walking, Eric Lamberg, an associate physical therapy professor who conducted the study, said. "I think the risk is there."

Environment

Surveying the Marianas on land and sea

By EVONNIE CAMACHO
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE



Evonnie Camacho is working as a Community and Education Outreach intern at the Mariana Island Nature Alliance this summer.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hafa Adai CNMI! My name is Evonnie Camacho. I graduated from Mount Carmel High School in 2011, and am entering my second year at the Northern Marianas College. I am currently working toward my degree in Liberal Arts. Thereafter, I plan on furthering my education and obtaining a degree in Natural Resource Management or Marine Biology in Hawaii.

Growing up in the Pacific, I've realized how important our marine life is to our people and continue to appreciate the unique opportunity to experience the biodiversity so easily. Coral reefs play a major role in our ecosystem, tourism, and lifestyle. The Coral Reef Initiative summer internship is a program within the Division of Environmental Quality, Division of Fish and Wildlife, Coastal Resources Management, Mariana Island Nature Alliance, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. This summer, I was selected to work as a Community and Education Outreach intern at the Mariana Island Nature Alliance. MINA is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of diverse natural resources in the CNMI. Our objective is to sustain the natural environment to ensure the island's way of life.

Throughout this summer program, I worked under the supervision of Sam Sablan and my mentors, Frank Villagomez and Shirlynn Perez. Mr. Villagomez is our program manager for "Enhancing the Managaha Experience" at the Managaha Marine Conservation Area, while Ms. Perez is our Project Leader for the "Laolao Bay Tasi Watch" Project. The Managaha Marine Conservation Area (MMCA) project involves the community and visitors to further promote sustainable behaviors within the conservation area and proposes a variety of learning programs for locals and tourists to protect our biodiversity and adapt to climate change. The Tasi Watch project is an outreach program that was developed to build and strengthen local capacity involvement for near-shore marine management in Laolao Bay.

As part of the Community and Education Outreach Program, my duties are to create and translate outreach materials for brochures, poster boards, and power point presentations. I am also tasked to write press releases for every training MINA has. Furthermore, I manage the MINA Facebook accounts for both MMCA and Tasi Watch, and help conduct our CoralWatch activities. CoralWatch is a non-profit organization initiated at the University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia. In addition to my duties at MINA, I summarized a proposal for the Coral Reef Conservation in Laolao Bay and collected information on how to kill fire and manage barbecues. I used this information for a board that we plan to post at Laolao Bay. Additionally, I am currently working on a newsletter.

For the MMCA project, we have been conducting CoralWatch activities at Managaha on a weekly basis to monitor the health of our coral reefs and to increase our understanding of coral bleaching. This program is committed to help maintain and conserve the coral reefs and to ensure that present and future generations may enjoy the natural wealth and beauty of our ecosystem. Coral bleaching is the whitening of coral due to a loss of symbiotic algae living within the coral tissue. In healthy coral, algae supplies energy and provides color. During bleaching events, corals eject the algae from their tissue which changes the color of the coral. As corals expel more algae, the corals become lighter in color. During CoralWatch, we use a Coral Health Monitoring Chart that has six different shades of four colors on each side. We match the lightest and darkest color of the coral with one of the colors in the chart along with the coral type. CoralWatch was one of the activities I enjoyed because at the same time, I encountered a variety of species and marine life that I was unfamiliar with.

For the Tasi Watch project, we had some volunteers assist us in conducting multiple baseline surveys at Laolao Beach, Ming Yang Store, and Kagman Market. These surveys targeted fishermen, beachgoers, and local residents to estimate their knowledge of ocean acidification, coral bleaching, recycling, global warming, and the rules and regulations of poaching and littering. The outcome of the survey shows us whether we have met our goal in educating the community to lessen their impact on the fragile ecosystem. As I conducted the surveys, I realized how little the Laolao Bay community knew about coral bleaching and global warming. This inspired me to increase my efforts to foster community watch and outreach efforts. On top of conducting surveys, we did beach clean ups to measure the amount of recyclables, picnic items, fishing items, and other trash gathered at Laolao. After the clean-up, we weighed them separately using a scale and hoped for a decrease in trash collected from the bay. We also held outreach activities at Laolao Bay that involved learning stations opened to the community. These stations were meant to provide education on the preservation of coral reefs and the beautification of our coastal waters and their surroundings.

During this internship, I also had the opportunity to participate in events held by other agencies within the Coral Reef Initiative such as lagoon surveys. Through this, I had the chance to learn the scientific names of sea grass and algae as well as their importance to our coastal waters.

This CRI internship has opened many doors for me and helped me gain a great deal of knowledge and experiences that are beneficial for my contribution to the CNMI. This program has influenced me to increase my efforts, in order to improve the aesthetic value of our island. When this internship ends, I aim to continue working on these projects as a volunteer and gain as much competence as possible that will be useful to my future career.

Summer internship broadens student's knowledge of environment

By KYANNA TENORIO
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Hafa Adai CNMI! My name is Kyanna Tenorio. This past June, I graduated from Marianas High School and am currently enrolled at the Northern Marianas College. My interests include diving, outrigger paddling, and learning about the ocean around my home here on Saipan. These interests are what drove me to continue my education and major in Natural Resources Management at NMC.

I became interested in environmental work when my family and I went on a hiking trip down to Old Man by the Sea. To our dismay, the beautiful view presented there was marred by heaps of trash completely covering a majority of the shore. The next time we returned to the area, we came with trash bags and filled them with as much debris as we could carry back to our cars. Seeing the damage done to such a place really opened my eyes to the other places here on the island that are affected by the negligence and abuse of people. I realized that a major barrier in the fight against pollution is lack of knowledge in regards to the public. I decided that what I wanted to attain was an understanding of the wildlife around our island and more importantly, what can be done to protect it.

While turning in my application for NMC in June, I came across a flyer advertising the Coral Reef Initiative Internship. After learning more about the program from a family member I decided to apply. Now I am privileged to be under the direction of not one, but two mentors. Dr. Ryan Okano and John Iguel of the Marine Monitoring Team under the Nonpoint Source Pollution branch of the Department of Environmental Quality.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kyanna Tenorio, seen here scuba diving in waters of Saipan, worked this summer for the Marine Monitoring Team of the Division of Environmental Quality.

A crucial lesson I learned in this internship is the importance of coral reefs. Preservation of coral is key to keeping our reef in its coral-dominated system. The coral reef along our shores is what protects us from tsunamis and typhoons, provides us with fish and other wildlife, attracts visitors with its beautiful views, and is an important part of the culture and history of our islands.

My main project during this internship is the study of algae removal by herbivorous reef fish. We attach different types of algae to ropes and sink them with weights. Then we secure a camera underwater to record the algae and see what species of fish consume them. This study can determine what species of fish are herbivorous algae-eaters and what type of algae they prefer. The results can be applied to areas where algae mass is increasing and in danger of over running the coral. By knowing what fish are the main feeders of problematic algae, something can then be done to protect those certain fish in the area where they can help control the algae population. This data can also lead to better reef management overall.

Another project I have done while in the CRI program is regularly planned lagoon surveys by the Marine Monitoring Team. These surveys take place at different sites around the island and play a significant role in the monitoring of our marine environments. The team is also responsible for the bi-weekly clean-ups of the CREWS-ICON station in Lao Lao Bay. This device is the first of its kind in the Pacific. It measures weather conditions as well as ocean conditions. It also has a sensor that collects chlorophyll and turbidity data. The information gathered from this device is sent to the National Weather Service's operational stream to be used around the world.

The time I have spent in this program has helped me in accomplishing my goals of understanding our environment and gaining significant experience with conservation work. I am very grateful to have been in this internship and would recommend it to anyone who has the drive to make a difference in the world.

Life & Style

AP

This Oct. 2011 photo shows composer Marvin Hamlisch at Heinz Hall in downtown Pittsburgh. Hamlisch, a conductor and award-winning composer best known for the torch song "The Way We Were," died Monday, Aug. 6, 2012 in Los Angeles.

'Chorus Line' composer Marvin Hamlisch dies at 68

NEW YORK (AP)—Marvin Hamlisch was blessed with perfect pitch and an infallible ear. "I heard sounds that other children didn't hear," he wrote in his autobiography.

He turned that skill into writing and arranging compulsively memorable songs that the world was unable to stop humming-from the mournful "The Way We Were" to the jaunty theme from "The Sting."

Prolific and seeming without boundaries, Hamlisch, who died at 68 after a short illness, composed music for film heroes from James Bond and Woody Allen, for powerful singers such as Liza Minnelli and Aretha Franklin, and high-kicking dancers of the Tony-winning "A Chorus Line." To borrow one of his song titles, nobody did it better.

"He was a true musical genius, but above all that, he was a beautiful human being. I will truly miss him," said Barbra Streisand, who first met the composer in 1963 and sang his "The Way We Were" to a Grammy win in 1974. "It was his brilliantly quick mind, his generosity, and delicious sense of humor that made him a delight to be around."

Hamlisch collapsed and died Monday in Los Angeles after a brief illness, his publicist Ken Sunshine said, citing the family. Other details were not released.

The New York-born Hamlisch composed more than 40 film scores, including "Sophie's Choice," "Ordinary People," "The Way We Were" and "Take the Money and Run." His latest work came for Steven Soderbergh's "The Informant!"

Hamlisch became one of the most decorated artists in history, winning three Oscars, four Emmys, four Grammys, a Tony, a Pulitzer and three Golden Globes. The marquees of Broadway theatres in New York will be dimmed in his memory on Wednesday at 8 p.m.

He arranged many of Minnelli's albums, including her first two as well as "Judy Garland & Liza Minnelli `Live' at the London Palladium."

"Marvin Hamlisch and I have been best friends since I was 13 years old," Minnelli said on Tuesday, calling him "one of the funniest people I knew. I will miss his talent, our laughter and friendship, but mostly I will miss Marvin."

"I have lost my first lifelong best friend, and sadly we have lost a splendid, splendid talent."

Actress-singer Lucie Arnaz, the daughter of Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz who performed with Hamlisch for years, said: "There is some kind of gorgeous music in the heavens tonight."

Hamlisch was perhaps best known for adapting composer Scott Joplin on "The Sting." In the mid-'70s, it seemed everybody with a piano had the sheet music to "The Entertainer," the movie's theme song. To this day, it's blasted by ice cream trucks.

"My heart is broken. He made me feel so special. I love him so much," said actress and singer Idina Menzel, who often performed with Hamlisch and called him "a second father."

Hamlisch received both a Tony and the Pulitzer for "A Chorus Line"—the second longest-running American show in Broadway history—and wrote the music for "The Goodbye Girl" and "Sweet Smell of Success."

He was scheduled to fly to Nashville, Tenn., this week to see his new musical production of "The Nutty Professor," directed by Jerry Lewis. The Tennessee Performing Arts Center, where the show is being presented, said Tuesday night's performance will go on as scheduled despite the private grieving of the cast and crew, and that the marquee has been altered to celebrate and honor the composer.

Hamlisch's reach extended into the pop world, writing the No. 1 R&B hit "Break It to Me Gently" with Carole Bayer Sager for Franklin. He co-wrote "One Song" sung by Tevin Campbell and produced by Quincy Jones, and "I Don't Do Duets" sung by Patti LaBelle and Gladys Knight.

"He was classic and one of a kind," Franklin said Tuesday after learning of his death, calling him one of the "all-time great" arrangers and producers. "Who will ever forget `The Way We Were'?"

He didn't rest on that laurel, writing everything from the title song for the TV series "Brooklyn Bridge" to the stunning score of the movie "The Swimmer" to the symphonic suite "Anatomy of Peace." He also wrote the original theme song for ABC's "Good Morning America."

"I'm shocked by the loss of a great colleague, as is everyone in the theater and film business and every corner of the arts where song and score matter to people," said Alan Menken, the Academy- and Tony Award-winning composer. "The fraternity of songwriters has lost a great friend."

Hamlisch's interest in music started early. At the age of 7, he entered the Juilliard School of Music, having stunned the admissions committee with his renditions of "Goodnight Irene" in any key they desired.

In his autobiography, "The Way I Was," Hamlisch admitted that he lived in fear of not meeting his father's expectations. "By the time Gershwin was your age, he was dead," the Viennese-born musician would tell his son. "And he'd written a concerto. Where's your concerto, Marvin?"

In his teens, he switched from piano recitals to songwriting. Show music held a special fascination for him. Hamlisch's first important job in the theater was as rehearsal pianist for the Broadway production of "Funny Girl" with Streisand in 1964. He graduated to other shows like "Fade Out-Fade In," "Golden Rainbow" and "Henry, Sweet Henry," and other jobs like arranging dance and vocal music.

"Maybe I'm old-fashioned," he told The Associated Press in a 1986 interview. "But I remember the beauty and thrill of being moved by Broadway musicals—particularly the endings of shows. The end of `West Side Story,' where audiences cried their eyes out. The last few chords of `My Fair Lady.' Just great."

Nancy Reagan liked that Hamlisch called himself old-fashioned: "I suppose that's why Ronnie and I were so drawn to him, she said in a statement, recalling a special song Hamlisch wrote for Ronald Reagan's 77th birthday in 1988. "But I don't think you could ever find a more contemporary and talented musician,"

Although he was one of the youngest students ever at Juilliard, he never studied conducting. "I remember somebody told me, `Earn while you learn,'" he told The AP in 1996. He earned a bachelor's in music from Queens College of the City University of New York.

"The Way We Were"—a big, sentimental movie ballad that became hugely successful in the rock era—exemplified Hamlisch's boundary-crossing appeal. He was extremely versatile, creating musical themes for the Woody Allen comedy "Bananas" and the somber family drama "Ordinary People." His music electrified 007 in "The Spy Who Loved Me," especially the torch song "Nobody Does It Better," performed by Carly Simon.

Although known for his hits, Hamlisch had fallow periods, including two theatrical flops in the mid-1980s: "Jean Seberg" on the London stage and "Smile," loosely based on a 1978 movie about a small-time beauty pageant, on Broadway.

"Normally I can balance two or three things," he told The AP in 1991. "The problem is when you're out of work and don't have anything to balance. I think people assume you're always busy. You go through dry spells."

Hamlisch's place in popular culture reached beyond his music. His nerdy, thick-eyeglasses look was celebrated in the 1970s on NBC's "Saturday Night Live," when Gilda Radner's Lisa Loopner swooned over Hamlisch tunes.

Hamlisch was principal pops conductor for symphony orchestras in Pittsburgh, Milwaukee, Dallas, Pasadena, Seattle and San Diego at the time of his death. Dallas' orchestra remembered Hamlisch Tuesday for "his natural grace at the piano, his humor and his elegant style in many genres of music."

He was also was due to lead the New York Philharmonic during its upcoming New Year's Eve concert.

Hamlisch was working on a new musical, "Gotta Dance," at the time of his death and was scheduled to write the score for a new Soderbergh film on Liberace, "Behind the Candelabra," starring Michael Douglas and Matt Damon.

He is survived by his wife of 25 years, Terre, a television producer.

"The world will miss his music, his humor, his genius," said Alan and Marilyn Bergman, who collaborated on many songs with Hamlisch including "The Way We Were" and "Ordinary Miracles."

"We will miss him every day for the rest of our lives."

Marvin Hamlisch's chorus line: key compositions

By MESFIN FEKADU
AP MUSIC WRITER

Was there an award Marvin Hamlisch didn't win?

He was showered with many honors throughout his illustrious career, winning Oscars, Grammys, Emmys, Golden Globes and a Tony. Then there's the Pulitzer Prize.

But more than his awards, he gave audiences endless soundtracks to their lives, composing scores for films directed by Woody Allen and that included Meryl Streep and Robert Redford. "The Way We Were" is just one example of his artistic heft; the No. 1 hit, immortalized by Barbra Streisand, is one of the most revered songs of all time. Doris Day, Barry Manilow and even Beyonce have covered it.

Hamlisch died Monday in Los Angeles after a brief illness at age 68. Here's a look at his key songs and scores:

■■■

Marvin Hamlisch's key songs:

"Life Is What You Make It" from "Kotch" (1971)

"The Way We Were" from "The Way We Were" (1973)

"The Entertainer" from "The Sting" (1973)

"Nobody Does It Better" from "The Spy Who Loved Me" (1977)

"The Last Time I Felt Like This" from "Same Time, Next Year" (1978)

"Through The Eyes of Love" from "Ice Castles" (1978)

"I Finally Found Someone" from "The Mirror Has Two Faces" (1996)

■■■

Marvin Hamlisch's key scores:

"The Way We Were" (1973)

"The Sting" (1973)

"A Chorus Line" (Broadway, 1975; Film, 1985)

"The Spy Who Loved Me" (1977)

"Ordinary People" (1980)

"Sophie's Choice" (1982)

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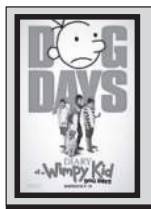
Total Recall

Thursday 1:25 4:25 7:25

Cast: Colin Farrell, Kate Beckinsale, Jessica Biel
Science, Fiction • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Underworld's Len Wiseman jumps into the remake game with this retooling of Phillip K. Dick's short story, We Can Remember It for You Wholesale, originally brought to the big screen by Paul Verhoven in the 1990 action/sci-fi eyepopper starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. Colin Farrell stars as a man whose visions of Mars makes him question his own identity. Equilibrium's Kurt Wimmer provides the screenplay.



Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days

Thursday 1:00 4:00 7:20

Cast: Zachary Gordon, Devon Bostick
Children's/family • Rated PG

Synopsis

The oh-so-wimpy Greg Heffley (Zachary Gordon) gets himself into more mischief when he spends the summer working at a country club in this third installation of the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series. David Bowers returns to direct from a script by Maya Forbes and Wally Wolodarsky.

The Watch

Thursday 1:30 4:30 7:30

Cast: Ben Stiller, Vince Vaughn, Jonah Hill
Comedy • Rated R

The Dark Knight Rises

Thursday 12:45 3:55 7:00

Cast: Christian Bale, Anne Hathaway
Crime, Action • Rated PG 13

The Dark Knight Rises

Thursday 12:55 4:05 7:10

Cast: Christian Bale, Michael Caine
Crime, Action • Rated PG 13

Ice Age 4: Continental Drift

Thursday 1:15 4:15 7:15

Cast: Ray Romano, John Leguizamo
Children's/family • Rated PG

The Amazing Spider-Man

Thursday 1:10 4:10 7:05

Cast: Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone
Action, Fantasy, Drama • Rated PG 13

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Celebrities keeping a low profile at Olympics

LONDON (AP)—Now that's more like it.

Mick Jagger has dropped by Olympic Stadium to watch some track and field, providing relief to celebrity-watchers who worried that the world's biggest sporting event has been a little lacking in star power—off the field, that is.

The Rolling Stones singer, who was photographed Monday chatting with London organizing committee chief Sebastian Coe at the stadium, is not the only A-lister to take in the games. But most are keeping a low profile.

It's as if they know that for this brief period, they're not the stars. The athletes are.

"My advice would be, go on holiday for two or three weeks," PR guru Max Clifford advised celebrities.

"I think the danger is that they could be seen to be cashing in, and the public would find that offensive," he said. "And it would remind people how empty most of them are."

The London Games have played to huge crowds, dozens of dignitaries and a healthy sprinkling of royalty, with Prince William, his wife Kate and Prince Harry popping up at everything from swimming to sailing to gymnastics to cheer on the British team.

Former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was spotted at the Olympic Stadium on Tuesday, and actress Susan Sarandon watched men's water polo alongside gold medalist Carl Lewis on Monday. Billionaire Bill Gates has attended events including table tennis and beach volleyball.

AP

Musician Mick Jagger, left, and Sebastian Coe, chairman of the London 2012 Organising Committee for the Olympic Games attend an evening session of athletics in the Olympic Stadium at the 2012 Summer Olympics, London, Monday, Aug. 6, 2012.

But megastars have been few and far between. Nicole Kidman went to the opening ceremony—"Wow!" was the reaction posted on her official Facebook page—and attended a party at the Omega House hospitality venue as a face of the watch brand.

Paul McCartney, who closed the opening ceremony with "Hey Jude," has shown up several times at the Olympic Stadium and the Velodrome.

But Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie, both filming in Britain this summer, have so far gone undetected both at the games and in London nightspots—to the regret of the world's paparazzi.

One deterrent to an Olympic visit could be the concentration in one spot of thousands of the world's media.

While it's fairly easy for the rich and famous to blend in amid the hordes visiting Olympic Park, there's no skipping Olympic security—even if you're a star, or the fastest man on Earth. Sprinter Usain Bolt complained about told to stand in a straight line and not being allowed to take his jump rope and iPad through security.

No surprise, then, that many stars have chosen to enjoy the Olympics from afar, and offer virtual support to their favorite athletes on Twitter.

Samuel L. Jackson has been the most prolific, live-tweeting nearly every event and cheering on competitors from around the world in a riot of capital letters and creative language.

Jackson was among the many stars who congratulated Venus and Serena Williams on their gold medal in doubles tennis, tweeting: "Gotta give Late Props to VENUS & Serena! TREYPEATING GOLD!!! Midas ain't got Nothing on Y'all!! Go USA!!"

Swimmer Michael Phelps and gymnast Gabby Douglas were hailed by everyone from Lil Wayne to Michelle Obama, while 17-year-old American gold medal swimmer Missy Franklin received a special tweet from her celebrity crush, Justin Bieber.

"Heard (at)FranklinMissy is a fan of mine. now im a fan of hers too. CONGRATS on winning GOLD! (hash)muchlove," the pop star posted.

Franklin was impressed. "I just died!" she tweeted back. "Thankyou!"

It's a sign of the times to see celebrities praising athletes, even those largely unknown outside their own disciplines just weeks ago.

The games have brought an Olympian round of soul-searching about the nature of fame. A mood has swelled that—never mind professional athletes and overpaid actors—Olympic champions should be the real celebrities.

In the Independent newspaper, columnist Grace Dent gave notice to the assorted "spare Kardashians" and other reality TV mini-stars: "Your time is up."

"Or," she added, "maybe this will all end and we'll go back to round-the-clock monitoring of Cheryl Cole again. You decide."

Clifford predicted that the status quo would soon return once the games end on Sunday.

Editors "can't fill the papers with stories of Olympians every week, because Olympians aren't publicity conscious," he said. "Most of them are quite shy and retiring."

Celebrity, he added, requires a certain shamelessness.

"Respect is not a word you tend to think of" with many celebs, Clifford said. "But with Olympians you do."

NBC *gives Olympic boost to 2 new comedies*

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Matthew Perry and Crystal the monkey are standing on the shoulders of Michael Phelps, Gabby Douglas and other Olympic champions.

NBC has vigorously promoted its fall schedule during the network's exclusive Summer Games broadcasts. But it's awarded a preview opportunity to just two comedies: "Go On," starring Perry, and "Animal Practice," featuring the simian Crystal and assorted humans.

"Go On," with the former "Friends" star as a newly bereaved sports radio host, will air Wednesday following the end of the night's Olympic coverage. At approximately 11 p.m. EDT and PDT.

"Animal Practice," starring Justin Kirk of "Weeds" and set in a veterinary hospital, will air after Sunday's closing ceremonies, which are set to wrap at about 10:30 p.m. EDT and PDT.

"The strategy really is about getting as much sampling for the shows as possible," said Vernon Sanders, NBC Entertainment executive vice president. He called it a reflection of a "real philosophical shift about how to premiere shows."

AP

This undated image released by NBC shows Matthew Perry portraying Ryan King, left, and Tyler James Williams as Owen in the pilot episode of "Go On." Sneak peeks of NBC's new prime-time schedule will piggyback on network coverage of the 2012 Summer Olympic Games.

That includes a more aggressive effort to give freshman series a jump start on the fall season, which officially begins in mid-September, by posting them online early, holding screenings—or, when an Olympic Games is handy, "putting them in the biggest launch pad possible," Sanders said.

This Olympics have exceeded 30 million nightly viewers for a majority of its prime-time telecasts and bested the ratings of the 2008 Beijing Summer Games. The higher-than-expected ratings have "thrilled" the network, Sanders said.

Using a gold-plated platform to sell its fall schedule is a temptation NBC shouldn't resist, said analyst Brad Adgate of media-buyer Horizon Media.

"They're going to have 200 million viewers watching across 17 days, and it's a wonderful promotional showcase for the new lineup," Adgate said.

Twitter subpoenaed over threats to Mike Tyson show

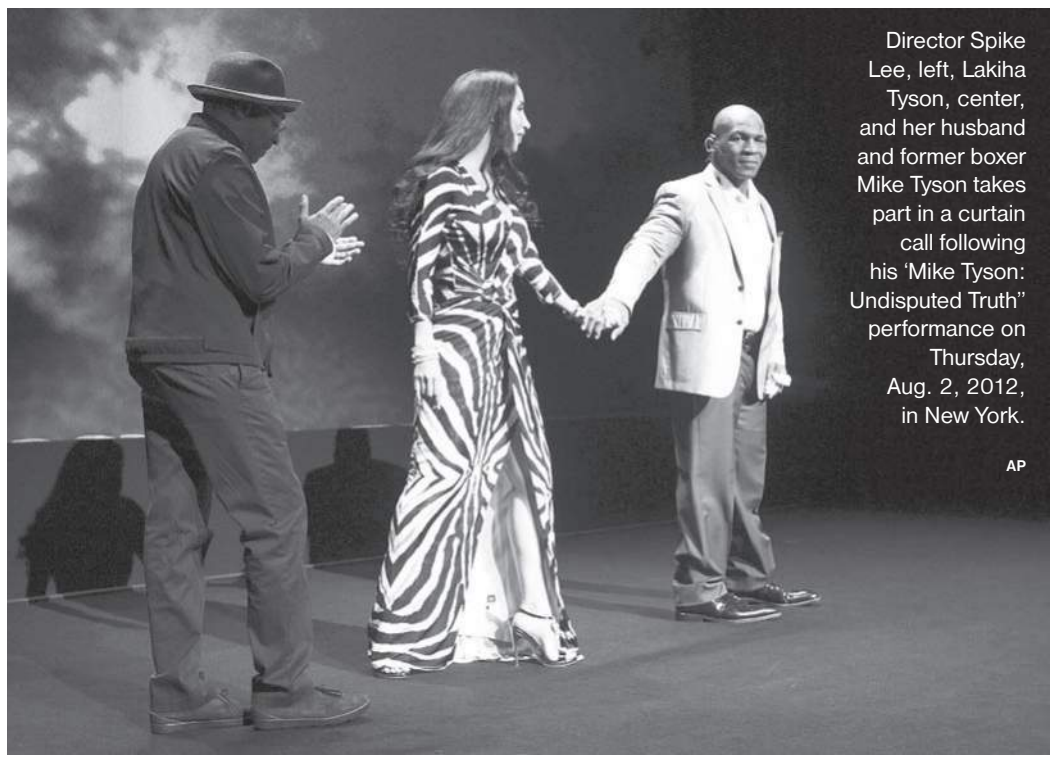
NEW YORK (AP)—The New York Police Department has used a subpoena to force Twitter to disclose information about the source of a tweet saying "people are gonna die" at the Broadway theater staging a one-man show by former heavyweight champ Mike Tyson, the department said Tuesday.

The NYPD sought the subpoena after Twitter refused to cooperate in a probe of ominous posts that referenced the shooting deaths last month of 12 people last month at a showing of "The Dark Knight Rises" at an Aurora, Colo., movie theater, said NYPD spokesman Paul Browne.

Police received new information from Twitter on Tuesday "that we're using as part of our ongoing investigation," the spokesman said. He offered no further details.

A Twitter spokeswoman declined to comment Tuesday.

Police say the tweets appeared aimed at the audience for "Mike Tyson: Undisputed Truth," the solo show directed by Spike Lee at the Longacre Theater in midtown Manhattan.



Director Spike Lee, left, Lakiha Tyson, center, and her husband and former boxer Mike Tyson takes part in a curtain call following his 'Mike Tyson: Undisputed Truth" performance on Thursday, Aug. 2, 2012, in New York.

AP

"This s--- ain't no joke yo I'm serious people are gonna die just like in aurora," police said one tweet read. Another from the same account warned, "I'm in Florida rite now, but it'll happen i promise I'm just finishing up my hit list."

Before complying with the subpoena, Twitter had told the NYPD in an email, "We appreciate the timeliness and sensitivity of this matter, and have reviewed the reported Twitter account. While we do invoke emergency disclosure procedures when it appears that a threat is present, specific and immediate, this does not appear to fall under those strict parameter as per our policies."

Browne said the NYPD has beefed up security at Longacre as a precaution.

Tim McGraw, Faith Hill announce Las Vegas shows

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Country music power couple Tim McGraw and Faith Hill are heading to Las Vegas.

They will be performing a 10-weekend run of shows at The Venetian starting Dec. 7. The couple announced the news Tuesday during a press conference at the hotel.

Sitting on a white leather sofa in the 1800-seat theater where the show will take place, McGraw welcomed everyone to their part-time Vegas home.

Hill said they were thrilled about the opportunity to be creative in a way they've never experienced together before.

"Being in this intimate environment, it will be 'us,'" added McGraw. "I'm very excited."

The show is called "Soul2Soul," named after their hugely successful co-headlining tours in 2000 and 2006. According to Pollstar, their 2006-2007 "Soul2Soul II" run remains the highest grossing North American tour in country music history.

AP

This Nov. 9, 2011 file photo shows country singers Tim McGraw, left, and his wife Faith Hill at the 45th Annual CMA Awards in Nashville.

The Vegas shows will mark the first time in six years that McGraw and Hill have performed a full concert together in the United States. McGraw said they are in the process of building the show and promises that the production will be cutting edge.

They may be superstars, but McGraw and Hill are also full-time parents of three daughters. Hill said the Venetian worked around their children's school schedules to make this happen.

McGraw said his daughters, two of whom are teenagers, are excited to see the shows in Vegas, joking that "they probably won't see ours, though."

Pre-sale tickets go on sale Wednesday and open to the general public Monday.

The couple have sold more than 70 million albums and charted more than 40 No. 1 hits between them.

Whedon suits up to write, direct 'Avengers' sequel

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Joss Whedon has been hired on again as boss of Iron Man, Thor, Captain America and their superhero pals for a sequel to "The Avengers."

The news came Tuesday from Walt Disney Co. Chief Executive Officer Robert Iger, who said during a company earnings call that the filmmaker is returning to write and direct the sequel adapted from the Marvel Comics tales.

Iger also said Whedon is helping to develop a Marvel-based TV series for ABC. Marvel is a Disney subsidiary.

No details were provided on a start of production or release date for the sequel to Whedon's "The Avengers," the year's biggest hit with nearly $1.5 billion at the worldwide box office. But the film will have to get in line behind a busy schedule of solo sequels featuring "Avengers" co-stars.

In this May 4, 2012 file photo, writer and director, Joss Whedon, from the film "The Avengers," poses for a portrait in Beverly Hills, Calif.

AP

Robert Downey Jr. is filming "Iron Man 3" for release next May, while "Thor" star Chris Hemsworth will have his own sequel out in November 2013. Chris Evans' "Captain America" sequel will follow in April 2014.

Rivers protests Costco not selling her book

BURBANK, Calif. (AP)—Police were called to a Costco store in a Los Angeles suburb after comedian Joan Rivers handcuffed herself to a shopping cart to protest the store, which is not selling her latest book.

The 79-year-old "Fashion Police" host was being filmed by a camera crew Tuesday as she complained that the store in Burbank, Calif., had refused to carry her book, "I Hate Everything... Starting With Me."

Rivers

Burbank city spokesman Drew Sugars says the store manager called police, who sent officers to the scene because they were uncertain of the scale of the situation.

They ended up escorting Rivers from the store, and she and her crew left without incident.

Sugars says there were no citations or arrests.

Exhausted caregivers must give themselves a break

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I think what "End of My Rope" (May 3) may have failed to say is that she's tired of sacrificing her own life to care for her ill-tempered, terminally ill husband. Harsh as this may seem, it's a fact. I have been caring for my father for eight years. He's suffering from severe dementia and is now an invalid. I, too, provide him round-the-clock care.

My suggestion to "End" would be to talk to a respite facility about giving her a "vacation" from her husband. I do this with my father twice a year. His appreciation for the care I give him increases greatly after being in a "home." He goes for only one week at a time, but it's long enough for me to miss him and for him to realize I'm not so bad after all.

"End" is overwhelmed and angry right now because her husband expects so much from her. This isn't his fault. It is normal for someone with brain cancer. If no one else is stepping up to give her the breaks she so desperately needs, then she must consider her own well-being. She must do what her heart tells her. She has my sympathy and respect for what she has done so far.

BEEN THERE, STILL DOING THAT

DEAR BEEN THERE: Thank you for writing. Many readers responded, offering suggestions gained from personal experience. Their comments:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: You gave "End of My Rope" helpful information about hospice care for her husband in their home, but more services are available from most hospices. In addition to doctors, nurses, home health aides and volunteers, services are provided by chaplains and social workers who offer essential emotional and spiritual support to dying patients and their families. The hospice that employs me as chaplain also provides bereavement counseling to families by professional grief counselors—at no charge—for a year after the patient's passing.

HONORED TO BE A HOSPICE CHAPLAIN

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I suggest "End" call all of her husband's friends and family. Many people offer help in times like this, but they don't know how. Schedule assignments for sitting with her husband, preparing meals, running errands, assisting with getting him in and out of the car on appointment days, or any tasks that need to be done.

Loved ones will appreciate being asked to help in tangible ways. I urge her to take a drive or go out to lunch and leave the caretaking to a trusted friend for an hour or two. Her husband does not realize the enormous burden she carries. When she's at her lowest, I also recommend a simple prayer asking for strength.

LOUISE IN BRADENTON, FLA.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Our dad was ill for a number of years with Alzheimer's. We are a large family of siblings, but most lived away from our hometown. Though we were fortunate to have in-home care, the day-to-day management fell to me and one of my sisters.

As the oldest, I took it upon myself to write a straightforward letter to my siblings regarding Dad's condition and the progression of his illness. Then I assigned consecutive weekends to each one, telling them this was their weekend to come, spend time with Dad and help with his care. I said they were free to trade weekends among themselves, but the expectation was that Dad would have his family with him every weekend until he passed.

It worked pretty well, with most siblings taking the responsibility seriously and as a chance to express their love and gratitude to Dad in his last days.

DANIEL IN VISALIA, CALIF.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Did you know you do not need a physician to refer you to hospice? You can SELF-refer. However, the doctor must certify eligibility so care can begin.

BRONX M.D.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

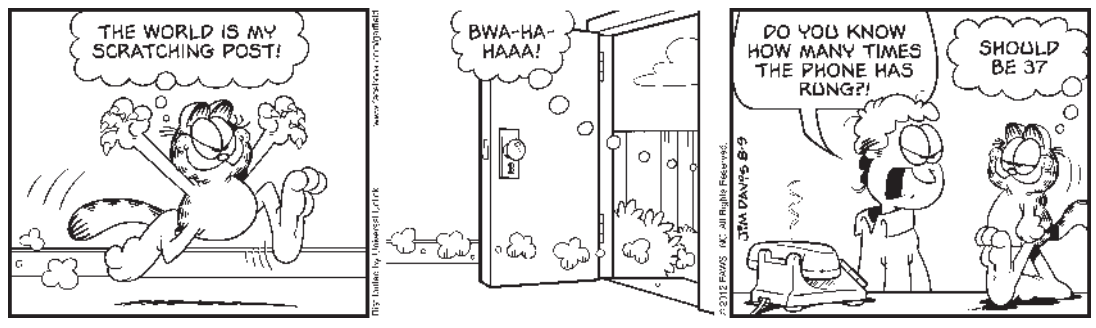
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

C'MON, LET'S GO TRY TO FIND A BIG POISONOUS SNAKE!
WHAT WILL WE DO IF WE SEE ONE?
ARE YOU KIDDING? WE'LL SCARE OURSELVES SILLY AND RUN AROUND IN CIRCLES, SCREAMING LIKE A BUNCH OF LOONS!
I LOOK FORWARD TO WHEN WE'RE OLD ENOUGH TO GET OUR MORNING JOLT FROM COFFEE.
AHH. I'LL BET THAT WEARS OFF QUICKER

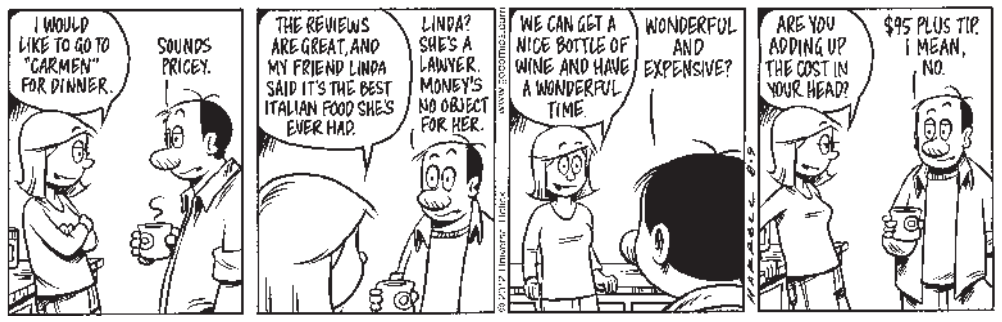
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I WOULD LIKE TO GO TO "CARMEN" FOR DINNER.
SOUNDS PRICEY.
THE REVIEWS ARE GREAT, AND MY FRIEND LINDA SAID IT'S THE BEST ITALIAN FOOD SHE'S EVER HAD.
LINDA? SHE'S A LAWYER. MONEY'S NO OBJECT FOR HER.
WE CAN GET A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE AND HAVE A WONDERFUL TIME.
WONDERFUL AND EXPENSIVE?
ARE YOU ADDING UP THE COST IN YOUR HEAD?
$95 PLUS TIP. I MEAN, NO.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

HEY! THE POWER WENT OUT! OH NO!! WHAT DO WE DO?!
OH GOOD! THEY'RE BACK ON. THAT WAS...
WHAT THE...? YOU STOLE MY CHIPS!!
IT'S CALLED "COUCH LOOTING."

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Opposed
5 "Humbug!"
8 Duel tool
12 Leeway
13 — out a living
14 Ointment-yielding plant
15 Handle
16 Paving material
17 Puzzle diagram
18 Elder
20 Le Carre hero George
22 Support system?
23 Literary collection
24 Disappear gradually
27 "Close — and I'll kiss you..."
32 Greek X
33 Sea eagle
34 Geologic period
35 Waterfalls
38 Nervous
39 — de mer
40 Victory
42 Powerless
45 Have an impact on
49 Protein bean
50 Parched
52 Norway's capital
53 Tied
54 Favorable vote
55 Den
56 Arp's genre
57 Club —
58 Cat's-paw

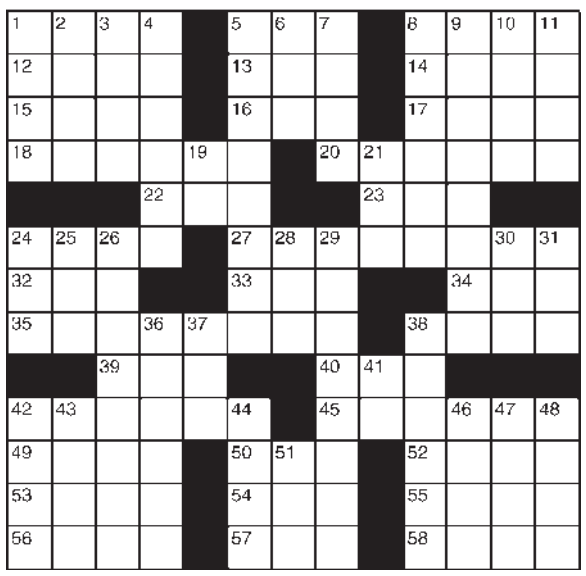
DOWN

1 Clumsy boats
2 Zilch
3 Animated character
4 Drink
5 Sold out
6 Alias abbr.
7 His and —
8 Motor
9 Exploited successfully
10 Pennsylvania port
11 Vortex
19 On the other hand
21 Scratch
24 TV watchdog org.
25 "Eureka!"
26 Unnerved
28 Raw rock
29 Still in need of convincing
30 Work unit
31 Put into words
36 Poolside structure
37 The whole enchilada
38 Hug
41 Kipling poem
42 Worked with
43 PBS science show
44 Cheese choice
46 Birthright barterer
47 Film sample
48 Rent
51 Deli loaf

Solution time: 25 mins.

O	K	H	A	■	E	B	B	■	I	H	E	A
R	A	I	L	■	R	U	E	■	O	A	T	S
B	L	O	W	H	A	R	D	■	T	R	U	E
S	E	T	A	E	■	■	S	T	A	D	I	A
■	■	■	Y	M	C	A	■	I	L	L	■	■
J	O	B	S	■	O	B	O	E	■	I	S	M
A	W	L	■	C	L	A	N	S	■	N	E	E
N	E	O	■	L	E	F	I	■	M	E	E	T
■	■	■	W	H	O	■	T	O	D	O	■	■
D	E	P	O	T	S	■	■	■	Y	O	D	E	L
O	D	I	N	■	P	I	P	E	L	I	N	E
W	I	P	E	■	U	K	E	■	A	V	O	W
N	E	E	D	■	N	E	W	■	H	E	L	D

Yesterday's answer 8-9



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Anna Kendrick, 27; Tyson Gay, 30; Chris Cuomo, 42; Hoda Kotb, 48.

Happy Birthday: Use your knowledge and skills to help others, and you will raise your profile and secure a better future. Don't let emotions cloud what you know you must do and you will show your leadership ability. There is no room for error. Let your insight into what works and what doesn't be your guide. Your numbers are 6, 9, 21, 24, 30, 39, 40.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't let a partnership turn into a burden. Strive for equality, or revamp the deal. An experience with a past colleague or partner will help you make a wise decision now. Don't make an impulsive physical change. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Keep emotions out of the equation. Someone will use guilt to get you to do something you'd prefer not to do. Don't proceed or make a decision without gathering all the information required to make an honest assessment. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't lose patience and do something you'll regret. You will overreact if given the chance, and you must avoid any sort of controversy that can affect your status or position. Don't let uncertainty or a lack of confidence lead to loss. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Determination will give you the edge. You'll be drawn to people who have interesting backgrounds or lifestyles. Romance is highlighted, and an intimate encounter will lead to an unexpected change. Tend to responsibilities before fun. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Keep things in perspective. Don't let emotions lead to an unsavory situation. Stay calm and you will come up with a solution that will have you in the driver's seat instead of scrambling to maintain your position. Don't limit your options. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You'll be faced with ultimatums or tough decisions that can cost you financially. Don't feel you have to be impulsive. Time is on your side, and weighing the pros and cons will give you greater insight into what will work best for you. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't mix business with pleasure, or you are likely to cross a line that costs you. Protect your home, family and assets from someone who is trying to take advantage of you. A relationship will change, leaving unanswered questions. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Your vulnerability will show if you divulge too much about your personal life and goals. A friend or relative may dump additional pressure on you. A close relationship with someone will help you deal with any confusion you face. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Keep things doable. You don't need to make a big splash to attract attention. A little will help pave a path that will lead to greater success in the end. Downsize or be moderate in the way you live life. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Too much pressure will lead to a mistake. Don't let impulsive acts be your demise. Strive to unify your family relationships. There will be greater strength in numbers, so don't distance yourself from those striving to reach the same goal. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Honesty is your ticket to getting what you want. Align yourself with positive people who have similar interests. An idea can help you raise your income by using your skills more diversely. A favorable domestic change is within reach. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Put more time and effort into home, family and your love life. Moderation coupled with hard work will bring you greater success. Don't let emotions interfere with the job you do. Separate business from home, family and fun. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are insightful, charming and unique. You are curious and intelligent.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	7		6		2	4		
	3						6	1
2			5					
5						8		4
3		1						9
					3			7
1	6						2	
		3	9		5		8	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	3	8	7	9	1	6	4	2
7	1	6	4	2	3	9	8	5
4	9	2	6	5	8	1	7	3
8	4	7	3	1	9	2	5	6
2	6	3	8	7	5	4	9	1
9	5	1	2	6	4	7	3	8
3	7	5	1	4	2	8	6	9
1	8	4	9	3	6	5	2	7
6	2	9	5	8	7	3	1	4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/09

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

RICHARD DAWSON (1932-2012) **Solution: 10 letters**

H	C	S	S	S	N	A	F	A	Y	M	R	U	P	R
E	O	H	B	Ⓗ	S	H	C	V	L	S	E	K	O	J
R	L	G	O	A	Ⓞ	T	C	A	I	E	Z	X	I	O
O	I	U	A	N	I	Ⓢ	C	T	M	L	Z	A	N	B
E	N	A	T	N	B	P	Ⓣ	A	A	A	U	M	T	P
S	T	L	G	O	S	D	U	E	F	M	B	C	S	L
E	I	K	X	N	I	C	H	O	L	E	E	C	K	A
M	D	I	C	R	R	Y	A	O	R	F	G	A	R	Y
A	N	S	A	I	O	W	V	N	N	G	M	R	A	E
G	A	S	P	C	U	E	A	O	S	P	O	D	M	R
U	B	I	T	H	N	Q	S	I	O	W	N	S	D	R
E	O	N	A	A	D	W	S	L	T	A	E	Y	O	A
S	A	G	I	R	A	F	L	O	G	E	Y	R	R	Z
S	R	S	N	D	N	E	H	C	T	E	R	G	S	I
E	D	A	G	I	R	B	U	L	L	S	E	Y	E	B

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Acting, Answers, Bandit, Bizarre, Board, Boat, Boxing, Brigade, Bullseye, Buzzer, Calm, Captain, Cards, Colin, Dawson, Dors, Facts, Family, Fans, Females, Feud, Game, Gary, Golf, Gretchen, Group, Guess, Heroes, Hogan's, Host, Job, Jokes, Kissing, Laughs, Love, Lucky, Mark, Match, Max, Money, Nichole, Player, Points, Poll, Quick, Richard, Round, Shannon, Waiter

Yesterday's Answer: Exhausted

To order THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 or 36 for $16.95 each; 10 for $6.95 each; US funds only, payable to Universal Uclick, plus $3.50 shipping. To find books closer to you or to order each additional book, see the WONDERWORD, 1130 Walnut, St., Kansas City, MO 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at puzzles.com. Volumes 2 through 23, 26 and 37 are no longer available.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: A pair of jeans

EMPLOYMENT

N15 Architects needs (1) Water and Wastewater Engineering Tech. 10 yrs experience required. Call (670) 233-5115 for serious inquires.

MOVING SALE

Computer Desks, Computer Monitors, Sofa Loveseat, Dining Sets, Shelves, Kitchen Wares, Coffee Table, Night Stands, Hutch, etc. Pls Call Leslie 323-1217

WANTED TO BUY

We're buying '95 & Up used cars! Transaction only within 30 mins. Call 287-8688 or visit DPA CAR MART in San Antonio.

Looking for used cars Year 2003 & up and Truck. Good condition. We pay cash!. Call 287-7676.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $450-$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

SANDY BEACH HOMES Energy efficient 3BR, 2BTH beachfront Chalan Kanoa. Security cams, back-up power/water, washer/dryer in unit, AC, solar water heater. Income eligibility req. apply. $695. 235-7263. www.sandybeachhomes.

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Starting as low as... $29.99
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$100 Security Deposit Required
Garapan • Susupe • San Antonio
Some conditions may apply

QQ CAR RENTAL, SAN ANTONIO
M&J BEAUTY SALON
Massage (60 mins) $15.00
Facial Care for $15.00
Manicure & Pedicure starting at $5.00
In front of PIC Z Bldg. • 10:30am - 9:30pm
Tel #s: 888-1354, 234-8855

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CITY TRUST BANK, Plaintiff,	]	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-0021**
-v-	]	
JOSEPH ALDAN ARRIOLA, Defendant.	]	**SEVENTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on October 31, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot No. 034 L 129, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 257 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described in the Subdivision of Lot 034 L 63, on DLS Check No. 034 L 21 recorded in the Commonwealth Recorder's Office as file No. 97-1299; and Lot 034 L 130, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 257 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described in the Subdivision of Lot 034 L 63, on DLS check No. 34 L 21, recorded in the Commonwealth Recorder's Office as File No. 97-1299.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, August 24, 2012, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 25th day of July, 2012:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE FINANCIAL & INSURANCE SERVICES GROUP, INC., Plaintiff,	]	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0338**
-v-	]	
RAMON P. AGULTO and DALIA R. AGULTO, Defendants.	]	**FOURTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on June 16, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot 001 G 32, situated in Kagman, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 G 02, the original of which was recorded March 20, 1986, as Document No. 86-0513, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, and also recorded on February 16, 1989, as Document No. 89-511, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, August 24, 2012, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 25th day of July, 2012:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

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CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB12-MOT-079

BID SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 28, 2012 • TIME: 1:00 P.M.

"SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF A BOOM-ARM TRACTOR MOWER FOR TINIAN, CNMI"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATION MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS OR AT THE TINIAN MAYOR'S OFFICE.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118. THE APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RAMON M. DELA CRUZ
MAYOR OF TINIAN AND AGUIGUAN

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB12-LB-095

SUBMISSION / OPENING DATE: AUGUST 28, 2012 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF FORTY (40) LAPTOPS FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE"

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ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY CONTACT MR. PATRICK SEMAN AT (670) 664-8954.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118. THE APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ MELCHOR MENDIOLA
DIRECTOR, LEGISLATIVE BUREAU

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

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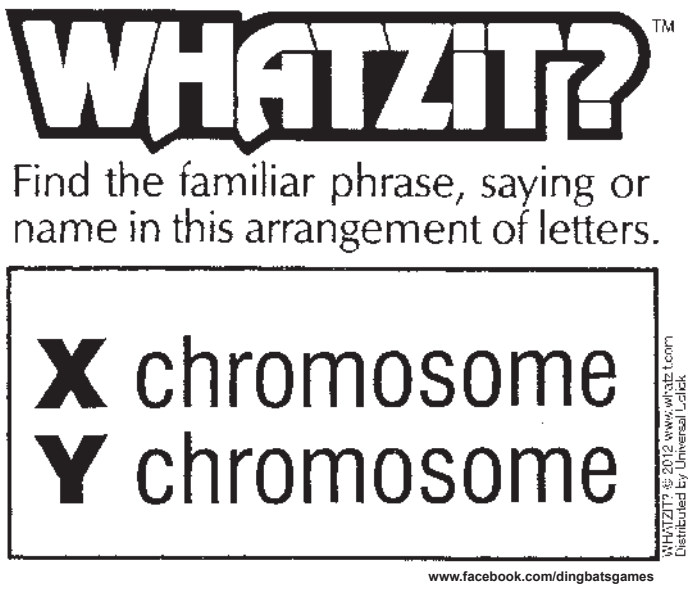

Find today's solution in classified section

Posey's homer lifts Giants past Cardinals

ST. LOUIS (AP) — San Francisco's Buster Posey continued his hot form with a three-run homer which delivered the Giants a 4-2 win over the St. Louis Cardinals in the National League on Tuesday.

and Barry Zito pitched 6 2-3 innings of two-run ball for San Francisco.

Posey leads the major leagues with a .448 batting average and 30 RBIs since the All-Star break, including 12 in his past six games. The home run extended his hitting streak to 11 games.

San Francisco starter Barry Zito (9-8) allowed two solo home runs over 6 2-3 innings, with no walks.

Cardinals starter Lance Lynn (13-5) allowed four runs in six innings.

AP

San Francisco Giants relief pitcher Jeremy Affeldt celebrates with catcher Buster Posey after striking out St. Louis Cardinals' Daniel Descalso in the ninth inning of a baseball game, Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2012, in St. Louis. The Giants won, 4-2.

Diamondbacks 10, Pirates 4

In Pittsburgh, Chris Johnson homered in the eighth and ninth innings, giving him five in eight games since arriving from Houston, and leading Arizona over Pittsburgh.

Johnson's homer in the eighth capped a four-run rally against Jason Grilli (1-4) that put Arizona ahead 7-4. Pittsburgh had just taken a 4-3 lead with two runs in the seventh.

Phillies 3, Braves 0

In Philadelphia, Cole Hamels pitched his fifth career shutout to give Philadelphia victory over Atlanta.

Hamels (12-6) struck out six and didn't walk a batter to record his 11th career complete game and his first win in three tries since signing a $144 million, six-year contract on July 25.

Marlins 4, Mets 2

In New York, Jose Reyes extended his hitting streak to a career-high 25 games, hurting his old team as Miami extended New York's home losing skid to an entire month.

Booed again at Citi Field, Reyes beat out an infield single which helped the Marlins score four times in the fourth. The former Mets All-Star shortstop has the longest hitting string in the majors this year.

Brewers 3, Reds 1

In Milwaukee, rookie Mike Fiers was in command on the mound, giving Milwaukee a win over Cincinnati.

Fiers (6-4) retired his first 18 batters and was on track for a perfect game until giving up a double to start the seventh. Over his past nine starts, Fiers has a 1.03 ERA and 61 strikeouts in as many innings.

Rockies 3, Dodgers 1

In Los Angeles, Rockies rookie Jeff Rutledge drove in three runs and had three doubles among his career-high four hits, leading Colorado to a 3-1 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Josh Roenicke (4-0) pitched three innings of scoreless relief for the victory. The right-hander took over for Alex White, who threw 80 pitches in four innings and allowed one hit and five walks before he was lifted for a pinch-hitter.

Nationals 3, Astros 2

In Houston, the Astros were trying to stay upbeat after their latest extra-inning loss dropped them to 0-11 in such games this season.

The young team hopes the experience of playing in games like this will help them in the future.

Danny Espinosa hit a two-run homer early, and his RBI single in the 12th inning lifted the Washington Nationals to a 3-2 win over the Astros.

Padres 7, Cubs 4

In San Diego, Carlos Quentin hit a three-run homer, Ross Ohlendorf pitched effectively into the seventh inning and the San Diego Padres ruined Brooks Raley's major league debut Tuesday night with a 7-4 victory over the floundering Chicago Cubs.

Chase Headley and Everth Cabrera each drove in two runs for San Diego, which has won eight of 10 at home.

Chicago lost its seventh consecutive game and has been outscored 38-16 during the slide.

Tigers 6, Yankees 5

In Detroit, Detroit notched its sixth straight win on Tuesday as Miguel Cabrera homered and drove in three runs, giving the Tigers a 6-5 win over the New York Yankees.

New York scored twice in the ninth inning and had runners at second and third when Curtis Granderson popped up for the final out.

Rangers 6, Red Sox 3

In Boston, Ryan Dempster rebounded from a rough debut with Texas by pitching strongly to lead the Rangers over Boston.

Acquired from the Chicago Cubs at the July 31 trade deadline, Dempster (1-0) did not allow any earned runs in 6 2-3 innings.

Ian Kinsler had a pair of RBI singles for the Rangers.

Athletics 10, Angels 4

In Oakland, Bartolo Colon held Los Angeles scoreless through six innings, setting up Oakland's win.

Colon (9-8) extended his scoreless streak to a career-high 22 1-3 innings as the A's moved half a game ahead of the Angels into second place in the AL West.

Jonny Gomes, Derek Norris, Adam Rosales and Josh Reddick all hit home runs.

Rays 4, Blue Jays 1

In St Petersburg, James Shields threw eight strong innings to guide Tampa Bay past Toronto.

Shields (10-7) allowed one run, backing up the form of his previous start when he pitched a shutout at Oakland.

Even Longoria drove in a run as he rejoined the Rays after missing 85 games because of a partially torn left hamstring.

Orioles 8, Mariners 7, 14 innings

In Baltimore, Adam Jones singled home the winning run in the 14th inning as Baltimore beat Seattle after rallying from a five-run deficit.

Matt Wieters homered twice, J.J. Hardy contributed a pivotal three-run drive and Nick Markakis had four hits for the Orioles.

Royals 5, White Sox 2

In Chicago, Bruce Chen notched his first win in six weeks, pitching Kansas City past Chicago.

Chen (8-9) allowed two runs in 6 2-3 innings.

Billy Butler hit his career-high 22nd homer with a two-run drive in the eighth.

Twins 7, Indians 5

In Cleveland, Tsuyoshi Nishioka's sacrifice fly scored the go-ahead run in the ninth inning as Minnesota sent Cleveland to its 11th straight loss.

The Twins scored three times off Indians All-Star closer Chris Perez (0-4), who blew his second save opportunity in three days.

Trail Blazers hire Terry Stotts as head coach

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—The Portland Trail Blazers hired Terry Stotts as head coach on Tuesday, filling the NBA's last coaching vacancy.

Stotts had a 115-168 record as coach of the Atlanta Hawks and Milwaukee Bucks before spending the past four seasons as an assistant with the Dallas Mavericks. He inherits a team that fell drastically short of expectations last season and heads into the new campaign with a roster that includes forwards LaMarcus Aldridge, Nicolas Batum, and a lot of question marks.

Stotts, 54, replaces Kaleb Canales, who went 8-15 in an interim role after Nate McMillan was fired.

Stotts and Canales emerged as the finalists for the permanent job, and the men reportedly interviewed with owner Paul Allen over the weekend at the London Olympics. Canales has been in the Trail Blazers organization since 2005. It is unclear if he will remain with the club.

''Terry is one of the elite offensive minds in the NBA, has extensive experience with multiple organizations and was instrumental in the Dallas Mavericks winning the 2011 NBA championship," general manager Neil Olshey said. ''He understands the vision for the future of the franchise, appreciates the process involved and will create an environment on the court that will produce championship habits."

While the team may develop championship habits, it appears to be several seasons away from contending for championship banners.

The roster as constructed is interesting, yet unproven. Aldridge and Batum are set at forward, but incumbent shooting guard Wesley Matthews is coming off a so-so season in which he shot 41 percent from the field and the Trail Blazers thus far don't have a true center for the opening tip on Halloween night.

Rookie Damian Lillard, the sixth overall pick in the draft, is expected to start at point guard after his good showing in the Las Vegas summer league. Other intriguing young players include 7-foot-1 Meyers Leonard, the 11th overall pick in the draft; guard Elliot Williams, who had flashes of brilliance before a shoulder injury ended his season; and a pair of new imports - forward Joel Freeland of Great Britain and swingman Victor Claver of Spain.

''I'm very pleased to be part of a great franchise in a beautiful city with such a proud history," Stotts said in a news release. ''I look forward to working hard with Neil and our players toward the ultimate goal of bringing another championship to Portland."

Stotts coached Atlanta to a 52-85 record after replacing Lon Kruger in December 2002. He was an assistant with Golden State before getting his second chance as a head coach with Milwaukee in 2005. He led the Bucks to the playoffs in 2006, but was fired toward the end of the following season.

He has coached under Rick Carlisle the past four seasons. In a recent interview with The Oregonian, Carlisle said: ''Of all the coaches presently in play, Terry is by far the best available. He's a professional and understands the process of NBA coaching and how to communicate and teach young players."

Before becoming a head coach, Stotts was an assistant under George Karl for six years in Seattle and four with Milwaukee.

He played college ball at Oklahoma and was drafted in the second round by the Houston Rockets in 1980.

Peyton Manning looking good heading into preseason games

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—Peyton Manning and the Denver Broncos are treating their visit to Chicago on Thursday night just like any other preseason opener.

Only, it isn't.

This marks the four-time MVP's first game of any sort since Jan. 30, 2011, when he went 2-for-5 for 12 yards and an interception in the AFC's 55-41 loss to the NFC in the Pro Bowl.

''I think he's anxious to get in there, just like all of our starters," coach John Fox said Tuesday.

Anybody who wants to see Manning's first game in 18 months had better tune in early because he won't have much more than a cameo appearance at Soldier Field.

''Well, we don't get into how much we're going to do but we'll approach it much like any first preseason games," Fox said. ''Our first unit will go the first quarter - about - and the seconds will go the second and third quarters, and the third will finish out the fourth quarter."

That's fine with Manning.

''We'd like to get a drive or two going," Manning said. ''I've always said you love to get a bit of everything in the preseason if you can. You love to get some short-yardage work, some third-down conversions, you'd love to get some red zone, goal line. In all four games, if you can get all the situations that we work on out here, that would be ideal.

''So, however long we play, or whatever Coach Fox wants to do, we're good with. We just need to play well when we're out there."

Manning missed all of last season with a nerve injury in his neck that weakened his throwing arm and led to his tearful release from the Indianapolis Colts that set off the biggest free agent frenzy in NFL history. He landed in Denver and hasn't looked back.

Throughout offseason workouts, minicamp and training camp with the Broncos (No. 10 in the AP Pro32), Manning has had plenty of zip on his passes and he's been as accurate and cerebral as ever.

Even Tuesday, when he had his share of incompletions against an ever-improving, first-string defense, Manning was sharp in his decisions.

''I wouldn't say that," Manning retorted when asked if it was a frustrating day at practice. ''Every day, you're trying to get better. Certainly, there's always some things you can improve on."

Although his fused neck is actually stronger than it was pre-surgery, the next big mile marker in Manning's comeback is bouncing back from that first big hit.

Manning said he has no doubt he is ready to absorb it, although the Broncos aren't exactly eager to get that blast behind them.

''Well, you never want to see your guy the one being hit regardless of position," Fox said. ''But it's all part of the game. I think he's definitely preparing himself, and we'll see how it goes Thursday night."

China still leads US in medal tally

LONDON (AP)— With five days left at the 2012 London Olympic Games, China leads the standings with 34 golds among its 73 medals. The U.S. is second with 30 golds and 70 medals, and Britain ranks third with 22 golds and 48 total medals, its best performance in 104 years.

South Korea has 12 golds and 23 overall, while Russia has 10 golds and 48 overall.

American Aly Raisman won the gold medal in floor exercise - her second London gold - and a bronze in balance beam to become the most decorated member of the Fierce Five.

Kicked out of the London Olympics on Monday for presumably not trying hard enough in the 800 meters, Taoufik Makhloufi got a second chance after a doctor took his side - and he won the gold medal in the 1,500 meters. The Algerian's disqualification was reversed after a doctor said his left knee was injured in the 800, and he won the 1,500 in 3 minutes, 34.08 seconds.

A few hours after twice-defending champions Kerri Walsh Jennings and Misty May-Treanor beat China, first-time Olympians April Ross and Jennifer Kessy joined them for an all-American final. With a win on Wednesday night, Walsh Jennings and May-Treanor would further cement their status as the most-decorated women's team in the brief history of Olympic beach volleyball.

"We want to seal the deal that we're the best team that's ever happened," Walsh Jennings said Tuesday night after the two-time gold medalists advanced to their third consecutive Olympic final with a 22-20, 22-20 victory over China. "I want to win tomorrow for us. ... This will be our last match together, so we want to go out on top."

AP

China's Liu Xiang, second left, falls as Hungary's Balazs Baji, left, and Poland's Artur Noga, right, react in a men's 110-meter hurdles heat during the athletics competition in the Olympic Stadium at the 2012 Summer Olympics, London, Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2012.

Britain's Alistair Brownlee grabbed a Union Jack right before he crossed the finish line in Hyde Park to win the men's triathlon in 1 hour, 46 minutes and 25 seconds, over Javier Gomez of Spain. Brownlee's younger brother, Jonathan, came in third to win the bronze, and both of them embraced.

Track cyclist Chris Hoy won the keirin to give Britain seven out of 10 medals awarded at the London Velodrome, matching the country's haul in Beijing four years ago. Laura Trott also gave the home nation a win in the women's omnium, while Australia's Anna Meares won the women's sprint, beating Victoria Pendleton of Britain. Hoy's six career golds gave him one more than British rowing great Steve Redgrave.

Britain won a gold medal in equestrian team dressage to end decades of German domination of the event. It was Britain's first dressage medal at an Olympics. Rafalca, a horse co-owned by the wife of Mitt Romney, ended in 28th place, out of contention for individual medals. Ann Romney called her "elegant and consistent."

Diana Taurasi scored 15 points and Candace Parker added 12 to lead the Americans to a 91-48 rout of Canada and advance to the semifinals in women's basketball for the eighth straight time. On Thursday, the U.S. will face Australia, which beat China 75-60.

Ilya Zakharov of Russia scored 104.50 points on his last dive to win the 3-meter springboard, stopping China's bid to sweep all eight diving events.

Sally Pearson provided a rare bright spot for Australia at the London Games, earning the country's fourth gold medal by edging defending champion Dawn Harper of the U.S. to win the 100-meter hurdles.

Liu Xiang of China stumbled into the first barrier of his opening heat of the 110-meter hurdles and crumpled to the ground, clutching his lower right leg. He won the gold in the event at the Athens Olympics in 2004, but since then, it's been two Olympics and no hurdles cleared. He had withdrawn before the first heat in Beijing four years ago due to injury.

When wrestler Hungary's Tamas Lorincz beat Georgia's Manukhar Tskhadaia to reach the gold medal finals, he picked up one of his coaches, flipped him upside-down and slammed him to the mat in a move straight out of pro wrestling. The coach hit the mat with a thud.

US ready to face Australia in quarterfinals

LONDON (AP)—Three games from gold, the U.S. men's Olympic basketball team believes its best is still to come.

First up is Australia in the quarterfinal round, though Wednesday's game, and each one after that, may as well go by another name to the Americans.

"Game 7," forward Kevin Durant said. "Every game is Game 7. Most of the guys here been in those situations."

The Americans have two choices: Win, and move closer to the title, or lose and go home in disgrace.

"We're focused on this," coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "We're ready. Let's go."

The U.S. was 5-0 in pool play, perfect in the standings if not quite on the court. The defense hardly seems at a championship level, though that never mattered because the Americans could outgun all of their opponents.

But there are no Nigerias in the single-elimination round, so maybe there will come a night where they can't win with offense alone.

"I think we can outscore teams, but you're going to have a game where your shots aren't falling and you need to get stops," swingman Andre Iguodala said, "and that's the scary part of our team. It's that we can still get better. We want to get better. We want to really dominate. It's really just communicating and continue to gel. Even though there is only a week left, we're trying to gel with one another and put some dominant games together and try to go home with the gold."

Krzyzewski is fed up with people thinking that's supposed to be easy. For more than 13 minutes Tuesday, he fought back against every notion that his squad should never dare find itself in a close game.

Now it's time for his players to answer for themselves.

"We're undefeated, now we're 0-0. Like, our team's done a really good job," Krzyzewski said. "I mean, we have great camaraderie, we're healthy. Again, you all can do whatever you want with the dominance thing, but it ain't happening. It's just not happening and we know that. So if you're looking at a game for us to dominate every minute of the game, it will not happen. They're too good. People are too good and so if you can win minutes, segments, then that adds up to a win, which is what we want to do."

The U.S. faced only one close game in preliminary-round play but showed an alarming lack of commitment to defense in the last two victories for a team that has always insisted that defense is its strength.

Or maybe it's no concern at all, not when a team can score the way these Americans can.

Kobe Bryant sure isn't worried.

"No, because in literally one minute we can go on like a 10-0 run," he said. "So I'm not concerned right now."

The Americans were locked in a one-point game with Argentina at halftime Monday after allowing 56 percent shooting. Then they buried the Argentines under a 42-17 avalanche in the third quarter, rolling to a 126-97 victory. That came two nights after the U.S. was shredded for 58 percent in its 99-94 victory over Lithuania.

The U.S. is allowing 79.6 points per game, a number that would rank nearer the bottom of the 12-team field if not for all the teams whose average was ruined because they had to play against the Americans and their tournament-best—by a marathon length—117.8 points averaged.

"I would like to see our defense play a little bit longer, as close to 40 minutes then to 20, 25, 30," LeBron James said. "But you know we have so many heavy hitters and so many home run hitters that we could break up a two-point game into a 13-, 14-, 15-point game in two or three possessions, you know, two or three minutes. It's great to be a part of something like that.

Brazil vs. Mexico in soccer finals

MANCHESTER, England (AP)—Leandro Damiao scored two second-half goals Tuesday to help Brazil beat South Korea 3-0 and reach its first Olympic men's soccer final in 24 years.

Defensive midfielder Romulo put Brazil ahead in the 38th minute and Damiao added his goals in the 57th and 64th to leave the South American team one match away from winning its first gold in soccer.

The Brazilians will face Mexico, which beat Japan 3-1 at Wembley Stadium in the other semifinal.

Brazil was the bronze-medalist in 2008 but hadn't reached the Olympic final since the 1988 Seoul Games, when it finished with the silver with a team led by Romario and Bebeto.

Brazil will be playing in its third Olympic final. It also won the silver in the 1984 Los Angeles Games. The Brazilians also got the bronze in 1996 in Atlanta.

Brazil came to the London Games as the main gold-medal contender because most of its top players make the tournament's under-23 age limit, including Neymar and Oscar. Each nation can also use three older players.

Brazil became the only favorite left in this year's tournament after Spain and Uruguay were eliminated in the first stage and host Britain fell to South Korea in the quarterfinals.

Brazil struggled early and it was South Korea which had the most significant scoring chances in the beginning of the match in front of nearly 70,000 at Old Trafford.

The Brazilians broke through with a goal after Neymar stole a ball near midfield and fed it to Oscar, who made a run up the middle before rolling it to Romulo just inside the area. The defensive midfielder came on the run and sent a low shot past South Korea goalkeeper Lee Bum-young just before halftime.

Damiao gave Brazil some cushion after Neymar and left back Marcelo exchanged passes in front of the area. Neymar made a low cross to Damiao and he sent a low shot into the net from near the penalty spot.

The striker added his second after a pass deflected off a defender and fell into his feet inside the area for another easy goal, his sixth in the tournament to surpass Senegal's Moussa Konate as the competition's leading scorer

Back-to-back wins for Docomo Red

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Docomo Red gained two straight wins at the resumption of the 3rd Docomo Pacific Sumer Youth Basketball League at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Docomo first downed Sixers (1-4) last Saturday, 50-17, and then breezed past Agape (0-4), 69-46, in the U17 division match last Monday. The wins were much needed, as Docomo dropped three games at the start of the youth caging, which had rained-out games last week.

In other U17 results, Rollers 16B (2-3) held on to get past IT&E Rollers B (2-3), 35-32, in the weekend opener, while Monday's first matchup resulted in a forfeit victory for still unbeaten Loving Hands (4-0) over the Sixers. Completing the field is co-frontrunner Proa (4-0).

U25 division action is scheduled to resume at the Garapan court this Friday at 5:30pm with the first place Shottas (4-0) taking on the Saints (3-1) and the Peace Makers (1-3) facing GVH (1-3). The R-Rebels (3-1), the Rollers (2-2), Safety 1st (0-3), and Hi-5 (0-3) make up the rest of the U25 division.

John Darag motored his way to a 19-point outburst in the first half to put Docomo Red ahead, 33-20, at midpoint of Monday's match. Allan Yu had a 10-point string late in the period to provide some hope for Agape going into the break.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Docomo Red's Daryl Suarez rips down a rebound during their game against Agape in the U17 division of the Docomo youth caging last Monday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Yu delivered 8 more early in the second frame, but Agape ran out of gas against Docomo Red's well-balanced offense. Docomo Red drained a handful of three pointers late in the game and did a good job using its possessions to dictate the pace of the match.

Two of the treys came from Stacey Macaranas, who finished off Agape with his 16 markers in the clutch. Macaranas and Darag teamed up for 42 points, while Yu scrambled for 20 on the short end.

Against the Sixers last Saturday, Docomo Red contained its foe to only one basket for a big 30-2 halftime lead.

Tony Bai and John Darag combined for 22 points in the early surge and Docomo Red did not let up in transition and rode off into the night with the rout in hand.

Darag led Docomo Red with 15 points and finished just a bucket shy of the Sixers' total.

In Saturday's opener, Rollers 16B's Melvin Deocares and Braylan Floresca hooked up for 17 points in the opening 16 minutes to give their team a 21-13 cushion at the half. IT&E Rollers B's Kyle Rios and CJ Morales mounted a late comeback and almost stole the show before falling short in the end. The young IT&E duo actually accounted for every drop of their team's offense with Rios scoring 19 points and Morales adding 13.

MONDAY

Docomo Red 69 – Darag 22, Macaranas 20, Suarez 16, Dela Rosa 6, Bai 5.

Agape 46 – Yu 20, Moi 9, Ellama 6, Li 5, Ren 3, Venezuela 3.

Scoring by halves: 33-20, 69-46.

SATURDAY
First Games

Rollers 16B 35 – Floresca 14, Vivero 10, Deocares 8, Ogasawara 2.

IT&E Rollers B 32 – Rios 19, Morales 13.

Scoring by haves: 21-13, 35-32.

Second Game

Docomo Red 50 – Darag 15, Tony 12, Dela Rosa 8, Macaranas 7

Sixers 17 – Ngeskebei 6, M. Sablan 6, Taitano 5.

Scoring by halves: 30-2, 50-17.

YANKEES

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the playoffs, the Yankees moved into the No. 2 spot and the Angels climbed up to third spot to set up their best-of-three semis series.

Game 2 of the Yankees-Angels semis showdown is scheduled tonight at 6:30pm. Weather permitting, the other semis duel between the Brewers and the wild card Fielders will get rolling early next week.

The Yankees scored the first run at the start of the playoffs, as Greg Isakawa drove in leadoff man Ben Jones Jr. in the opening frame. The Angels' TJ Cruz snuck around off errors to knot it back up in the top half of the second inning.

The Yankees' Jack Castro responded in the bottom portion and escorted John Salas to the plate in the next frame and they moved in front, 5-1, in the third inning off a pair of back to back doubles from Jerome Delos Santos and Salas, and an RBI single from TJ Agulto.

The Yankees silenced the Angels through the fourth and fifth exchanges and then catapulted ahead, 10-1, in the bottom of the fifth off four booming drives. Chris Camacho led off with a double and scored in front of Gary Cruz after an error and another double by Delos Santos. David Camacho kept it going with an RBI base rip and Castro drove in another run before Jones Jr. signed off with an RBI triple.

A base hit from Nick Cruz accounted for the Angels' lone run in the top of the sixth inning and what was an ever-efficient Yankees squad put the run-rule into effect in the bottom side.

Some shaky pitching gifted the Yanks two runners and Salas capitalized on the errors with a solid RBI double. Birthday boy Camacho stepped in next and pulled out the go-ahead two-RBI base smash before stepping on the hump to close the match. Camacho took the ball with zero outs in the sixth and bagged three RBIs.

Yankees starter Dave Jones gave up one unearned run off three hits, four walks, a pair of hit batsmen, and two strikeouts through five innings.

Delos Santos and Salas both went 2-for-3 with two RBIs, three runs, and a base on balls.

CNMI

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Already assured of semis seats in the girls U15 singles were Mikayla Lopez, Negahr Rastguiy and Tammy Ackerman, while Isabel Heras and Carol Lee had already advanced to the Final Four of the girls U12 singles.

Lopez and Rastguiy held identical 4-0 records after Day 2 of the single-round robin elimination of Pool A last Tuesday and they were scheduled to collide in the final pool play match yesterday. Regardless of the results of the all-CNMI game yesterday, Lopez and Rastguiy were already in the semis as they finished in the Top 2 in their group.

Pending yesterday's results, the Top 2 finishers in Pool A have yet to drop a single set in the tournament and hold similar 36-6 records (games won and loss).

Ackerman, who is in Pool B, held a 3-0 card after last Tuesday's games and was set to meet the top seed Anastasia Tapusoa (3-0) yesterday. After Day 2 in Fiji, Ackerman has only drop one set and won six and holds a 40-20 record. She is likely to join Tapusoa (6-0 sets won/loss mark, 36-7/games won/loss record) to the next round, as the third-running Vinda Teally has only 1-2 record (matches won/loss) after Day 2.

In the girls U12 singles, Heras owned a 4-0 card, 8-1 sets won/loss slate, and 52-22 games won/loss mark for an outright semis spot in Pool A. Heras was scheduled to face top-ranked Ruby Coffin in the final pool play yesterday.

Lee is in Pool B and also earned a perfect 4-0 mark after last Tuesday's games. She and Heras have to finish first in their respective groups to avoid an early CNMI semis collision. The top-seeded Lee has yet to drop a single set in four matches and was set to square off against second-ranked Emma Maucotel yesterday. Lee has won 49 games and lost only 10.

In the boys U18 division, Raphael Jones (3-1) was scheduled to duel Nicholas Lesturgie (3-1) and a win would have advanced him to the semifinals, joining Pool A leader Gregory Jacobe (4-0).

In Pool B, Christian Miller (2-1) was tied with James Elliot after last Tuesday's games and a former's victory over Heve Kelley yesterday coupled with Elliot's loss to Tito Tebatibunga would have put the CNMI bet to the Final Four.

Thea Minor and Christian Cajigan are out of the semis race in the girls U18 and boys U15 after posting 0-4 and 1-3 cards, respectively in Day 2 of the POJC.

Yesterday's pool play and semis results were not posted at the POJC website and an email to tournament official Gene Ridgway asking for the latest development in Fiji has yet to be returned at press time last night.

WOMEN

From Page 28

posed to just three by the men. Or the last-minute, overtime header by Alex Morgan that sent the U.S. women's soccer team to a white-knuckle semifinal victory against Canada.

And at least for the United States and China, the runaway medals leaders have been women. Through Tuesday afternoon, U.S. women had won 19 golds and 34 medals overall, compared to just 10 golds and 29 medals for American men. Chinese women have also won more golds than men, and have outmedaled their countrymen 40-to-28.

Male headliners like the U.S. Dream Team have continued their march to likely basketball gold, but without much pizazz - and virtually no defense. Other men have disappointed.

The American men's gymnastics team, favored to win gold, ended up fifth. Britain's cycling god Mark Cavendish failed to win the road race on the first day of competition. And the host nation's athletics captain and gold medal hopeful Dai Green finished off the podium in the 400-meter hurdles.

Meanwhile, superstar American women have risen to the occasion. Take Serena Williams, who defeated Maria Sharapova to win gold in singles tennis, then teamed with sister Venus to bring home the doubles title as well. Or the "Fierce Five" U.S women gymnasts, who not only won gold but are being hailed as perhaps the greatest team of all time.

Even most of the bad news at these games has involved female athletes, like the eight women badminton players sent home for intentionally trying to lose, and the Greek triple jumper expelled for a racist tweet.

Timo Lumme, the director of television and marketing for the International Olympic Committee, said the dominance of female athletes has sparked a surge in viewership of the games among American girls, evidence that women's success is already inspiring the next generation. Ratings are 89 percent higher among 12- to 17-year- old girls than for the hit teen drama "Glee," the highest-rated network show in that demographic.

"You look at athletes such as Katie Ledecky, the 15-year-old who won the 800-meters (in swimming), and the massive amount of social media activity. ... What you are seeing is a real confluence of interest which is translating into the inspirational qualities of the athletes being spread to as many people as possible."

For the first time, the United States sent more female athletes than male to the games, joined by Russia, Canada and China; Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Brunei sent female athletes to the Olympics for the first time. And the addition of women's boxing means women are competing in all 26 events, another first.

Saudi judo fighter Wojdan Ali Seraj Abdulrahim Shahrkhani was little match for her Puerto Rican opponent, but she won the admiration of many back home.

MOBIL

From Page 28

out matches will be played this Saturday with the winners colliding for the second and last final's berth.

Mobil manufactured a 36-29 advantage at the half in the late tiff with a mixed bag from seven different players.

Ben Lisua led the Hoop with 8 points that was complemented by a pair of long range shots from Trevor Ogumoro, but there was still a lot of work to be done in the closing frame.

The Hoops fought valiantly in the final canto, but Mobil did not let up and its point man Jun Estolas led the team down the homestretch with a 10-point production that was capped off by three baskets from Marvin Rabauliman in the final moments.

John Joyner top-scored for Mobil with 15 points while Lisua turned in a game-high 17 in the defeat.

In the first playoff game, Konflikt worked out an early 34-24 advantage in the first half, thanks to Manalo Manolo and Chris Omnes, who delivered a dozen late points off the bench.

Blue Haus' Errol Peredo heated up in the second half and led a comeback surge with 16 markers to force a 62-all deadlock at the end of regulation.

JR Barrios drained a couple of three-pointers for Blue Haus in regulation, however they fell just short in the bonus period.

Konflikt's Elmer Esdrelon was held to 7points in the second half, but still led the squad with 18. Dan Mateo and M. Castillo combined for 28 for Konflikt, while Peredo topped the box score with 26.

In the second playoff tiff, Wanna-Be's Dan Barcinas, Preston Basa, and Pete Lizama shared the wealth in the opening frame and combined for 22 points for their slim 35-33 halftime lead.

QQ Rent A Car buried a handful of three balls to stay in range, two of which came from Eugene Mangali, who led the squad in the first half with 10 points. Mangali sunk three more from behind the arch in the second half, but the QQ crew could not stop the Wanna-Be's' trio on the other end.

Basa held down the fort with 10 points in the clutch, as the trio received some welcome bench support late in the game. Basa's 7-point string in the final minutes sealed the deal in the end and his 17-point total clipped teammate Barcinas by a sliver, while the 21 markers apiece of Mangali and Badong Camacho did not get it done for QQ.

First Game

Konflikt 71 – Esdrelon 18, Mateo 15, Castillo 13, Manolo 10, Omnes 9, Anasan 2, Talania 2, Tumaquip 2.

Blue Haus 70 – Peredo 26, Barrios 16, Aquino 9, Capalad 9, Olivos 4, David 4.

Scoring by halves: 34-24, 62-62, 71-70 (OT)

Second Game

Wanna-Be 69 – Basa 17, Barcinas 16, Lizama 13, Norita 11, Avila 6, Diaz 2, Peters 2.

QQ Rent A Car 63 – Mangali 21, B. Camacho 21, Pagarao 12, Sison 5, Saplan 2.

Scoring by halves: 35-33, 69-63

Third Game

Mobil 69 – Joyner 15, Rabauliman 12, Fernando 9, Estolas 10, Bernardo 8, Demapan 6, Sablan 5, Ruluked 2.

Hoops 64 – Lisua 17, Ogumoro 15, Lauron 14, Hossain 6, Litulumar 5, Mendez 4, E. Camacho 3.

Scoring by halves: 36-29, 69-64

GNBF Summer Friendship Tournament

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Players and officials of Northern Marianas Badminton Association pose for a group photo while waiting for the start of the GNBF Summer Friendship Tournament held over the weekend in St. Paul Christian School in Yigo, Guam.

The Philippines delegates to the Guam National Badminton Federation-organized tournament pose for a group photo.

NMBA and Guam players pose for a photo before their doubles game.

Loida Ito, right, and Andrew Galvez warm up for their doubles match against the Philippines.

NMBA players line up at the registration area.

Former Philippine actor and now Guam-based Bojo Molina introduces the participants.

Marlene Peraja, right, waits for the service, while teammate Edwin Montoya looks on.

Guam players acknowledge the home crowd.

NMBA players enter the playing court during the opening ceremony.

NMBA, Philippines, and Guam players participate in the team parade during the opening of the three-nation tournament.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Yankees draw first blood in SML semis

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

The Saipan Stevedore Company Yankees' Dave Camacho tries to pick off a runner at first base during Game 1 of their SML semis series against the St. Michael's Medical Response Angels last Tuesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Saipan Stevedore Company Yankees brought along their sticks on Tuesday night and pelted the defending champions St. Michael's Medical Response Angels, 13-2, as the Saipan Major League Baseball Association's playoffs got underway at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Yankees and Angels started the playoff round after the initial semis opening game between pennant champions Tan Holdings Brewers and IT&E-Shell Fielders last Monday was rained-out.

The IT&E-Shell Fielders were awarded the fourth and last playoff berth after the second-ranked Aces were disqualified from the post season for failure to pay their entrance fee. With the Aces out of

See YANKEES on Page 26

Women dominate Olympic headlines and podium

By PAUL HAVEN
AP SPORTS WRITER

LONDON (AP)— Gabby Douglas. Jessica Ennis. Missy Franklin. Ye Shiwen. And don't forget the Olympics' first female judo fighter from Saudi Arabia.

Some scoffed at early hype that the games would be a breakout moment for women, but 11 days in, female athletes have dominated the headlines. Save for a few bursts from Michael Phelps and the indomitable Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt, it's hard to imagine the London Games without them.

Certainly, the 2012 Games would have lacked a majority of their defining moments, like Douglas soaring gracefully over the balance beam, or the supremely fit Ennis taking heptathlon gold for host Britain, or the six women's world records swept away in the pool, as op-

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AP

Saudi Arabia's Wojdan Shahrkani and Puerto Rico's Melissa Mojica compete during the women's 78-kg judo competition at the 2012 Summer Olympics, Friday, Aug. 3, 2012, in London.

CNMI assured of 5 semis seats in POJC

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Junior Tennis Team is just one semis seat away from duplicating its performance in last year's Pacific Oceania Junior Championships.

Pending the Day 3 results of the tournament being played at the Dr. Robin Mitchell Regional Tennis Centre in Lautoka and the Nadi Sports Club in Nadi, the Jeff Race-coached squad has already secured five semis berths. Last year, six Commonwealth players advanced to the Final Four of the annual tournament and days before leaving for Fiji Race said they are hoping to duplicate if not surpass their record in 2011.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Carol Lee goes for a backhand return in this file photo taken during the PIC tennis tournament early this year. Lee and four other CNMI junior tennis players gained semis entries in the 2012 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji.

Mobil advances to Summer Jam finals

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Mobil punched the first finals ticket into the 18A Summer Jam Friendly Basketball Tournament after pulling off a 69-64 victory over the Hoops last Saturday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

In other results, Konflikt Hip Hop Thunder hung on to bump down Blue Haus, 71-70, in overtime of last Saturday's curtain raiser, while Wanna-Be overcame QQ Rent A Car, 69-63, in the second pairing. With these developments, Wanna-Be will take on Blue House in the loser's bracket playoffs at 6pm, while Konflikt will face the Hoops at 7pm. The two knock-

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WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Mobil's Jun Estolas streaks to the basket in this file photo taken during a recent local caging held at the Garapan Basketball Court. Mobil advanced to the finals of the Summer Jam after beating the Hoops in the playoffs last Saturday.